



# Clementimes

A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mount Clemens

January/February/March 2014

## CITY OF MOUNT CLEMENS DEPARTMENTAL PHONE LISTING

The main phone number for the City of Mount Clemens is **586.469.6818**. For specific departments, please see the options/phone numbers listed below.

Accounting	x 1
Animal Control	.586.469.6847
Assessing	x 4
Cable Television	.586.461.3751
City Clerk	x 3
City Manager	x 7
Mayor/City Commission	
Community Development	x 2
Building/Inspections	
Community Relations	x 7
Dial-A-Ride	.586.469.RIDE
Downtown Dev. Authority	.586.469.4168
Finance	x 301
Fire	.586.469.6840
Human Resources	x 5
Parking Matters	x 909
Public Housing	.586.468.1434
Dept. of Public Services	.586.469.6847
Purchasing	x 6
Treasurer's Office	x 1
Tax/Water Bills	
Credit Card Payments	1.866.789.5536
Utilities	.586.469.6889
Water & Sewer/Water Filtration	

### Macomb County

Sheriff's Office . . . . .586.469.5151  
[www.macombsheriff.com](http://www.macombsheriff.com)

41B District Court . . . . .586.469.9300

**Mount Clemens City Hall**  
**One Crocker Boulevard**  
**Mount Clemens, MI 48043**

**Monday - Friday**  
**8:00 AM - 4:30 PM**

[www.cityofmountclemens.com](http://www.cityofmountclemens.com)

### Take a Look Inside

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## Messages from Mayor Barb Dempsey

Happy New Year!! I hope that everyone had a great holiday season.

• • •

### Thank You

Thank you to the volunteers, sponsors and participants who all helped to make this year's Santa Parade a huge success.

• • •

### City Commission Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, January 21, 2014\*
- Monday, February 3, 2014
- Tuesday, February 18, 2014\*
- Monday, March 3, 2014
- Monday, March 17, 2014
- Monday, April 7, 2014

\* These dates have been changed due to conflicts with holidays.



Photographs taken by Ron Carpenter

### Boards, Committees and Commissions

Vacancies now exist on the following Boards, Committees and Commissions:

- Beautification Advisory Committee
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
- Historical Commission

Applications are available in the City Clerk's Office or online at [www.cityofmountclemens.com/boards.htm](http://www.cityofmountclemens.com/boards.htm).



## ASSESSING

Nancy Strehl  
Assessor

### A Resident's Guide to Understanding Assessments

#### Important Assessing Dates

Assessment notices should be in the mail by March 1, 2014.

March Board of Review dates are as follows:

- Monday, March 17, 2014  
9 AM – Noon and 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM
- Tuesday, March 18, 2014  
1 PM – 4 PM and 6 PM – 9 PM

#### APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

To schedule an appointment, call 586.469.6818 x4 after you receive your 2014 assessment notice.

#### Proposal "A" of 1994

On March 15, 1994, Michigan voters approved the constitutional amendment known as Proposal A. It was designed to limit the growth in property taxes by the Consumer Price Index (CPI) until ownership in the property was transferred. Prior to Proposal A, property taxes were based on the State Equalized Value (SEV), which may fluctuate from year to year. With the implementation of Proposal A, property taxes are based on your property's Taxable Value (TV).

#### Taxable Value

In 1994, all properties became "capped." The property's SEV then became the new Taxable Value. From that point forward, Taxable Value could increase in the following three ways: 1. a transfer of ownership or 2. a physical change to the property or 3. a change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) not to exceed 5%. This is also referred to as the Inflation Rate Multiplier.

#### Transfer of Ownership

When a transfer of ownership takes place on a property, the Taxable Value is uncapped to the Assessed

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## Downtown Mount Clemens Events Calendar

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire and Ice

#### Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

Thursday, January 30<sup>th</sup> Starts at 6 PM  
At Participating Bars and Restaurants  
Downtown

Tickets can be purchased in advance  
at participating establishments.

586.469.4168

*Proceeds benefit the Mount Clemens  
Goodfellows and the Anton Art  
Center.*

### 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Mount Clemens

#### Ice Carving Show

Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup> through

Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

Centered near the Fountain Stage at  
Macomb Place & Cherry Street Mall.  
Show formally opens 4 PM Friday and  
runs through Sunday evening.

586.469.4168

*Live ice carving will be taking place  
from midday Thursday to midday  
Sunday.*

### Magical Mount Clemens Weekend – Magician's Conference and More

March (Dates TBA)

Watch for details on magic shows,  
street performers, and classes all  
weekend long.

586.790.3700

### Independence Day Celebration

#### Fireworks

Return to their traditional Friday date  
for 2014

Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at Dusk

586.469.4168

Stay tuned for our soon to be  
announced complete line up of  
events for 2014.

For more information on these  
and other upcoming events, visit:  
[DowntownMountClemens.com](http://DowntownMountClemens.com).

## Looking Back on 2013 Downtown Mount Clemens

As we look back on the past year in  
Downtown Mount Clemens, we had  
several successful new events, as well  
as business openings, relocations,  
and developments. Here are some  
of the highlights of what was new for  
2013 in Downtown Mount Clemens...

• **The Macomb Music Theatre**  
completed their million-dollar

renovation and opened to rave  
reviews. The theatre brought a  
diverse offering of entertainment into  
our city including national acts such  
as: Michael Bolton, Kenny Loggins,  
Hoobastank, Joe Satriani, Howie  
Mandel, Cheech & Chong, and  
many others.

• The long awaited opening of the  
beautiful **Three Blind Mice Irish Pub**  
took place in October. The pub  
boasts over 250 craft and world  
beers, over 130 Whiskeys, Bourbons,  
and Scotches, traditional pub  
fare with a creative twist, and live  
entertainment seven nights a week.

• A new family owned restaurant, **The  
Courthouse Café & Grill**, opened at  
39 North Main Street. The Courthouse  
Café & Grill offers traditional  
homemade Lebanese and American  
dishes.

• **ABC Magic Store** relocated to  
a larger store at 69 North Walnut  
Street. Their new expanded location  
includes a stage, puppet theater,  
and an expanded selection of  
products including more classic and  
science toys.

• A new sheriff arrived in town  
as **Chantel's Jailhouse Deli** took  
over the former Maya's Deli  
location. Chantel's Jailhouse Deli  
features made from scratch soups,  
handcrafted sandwiches, fresh  
salads, and daily specials in a fun  
jailhouse themed atmosphere.

• **The Peanut Peddler** opened their  
doors at 58 Cherry Street, and carries  
a wonderful assortment of nuts,  
seeds, and dried fruits. Keep an eye  
out for their Peanut Peddler pushing  
around their vintage peanut cart and  
selling their products at Downtown  
Mount Clemens events. Peanut  
Peddler products are also available in  
warming boxes at several downtown  
bars and restaurants.

• **Hunch Free** purchased and  
renovated the former Glime Daoust  
PC building at 25 North Main Street.  
After moving their digital marketing  
offices to this grander location, they  
were featured in Crain's *Detroit  
Magazine*, and *The Macomb Daily*.  
Hunch Free is currently working on  
launching **The CoLaborative LLC**, a  
shared ground floor workspace to  
house startups and other smaller tech

## Mount Clemens Community Schools

### Great Things are Happening in Mount Clemens Community Schools

That's right, *really* great things. In fact,  
the future's so bright, we've got to wear  
shades.



As a community member, you've just  
got to know some of the things that are  
happening.

Our Early Childhood Center at  
Seminole is fully licensed by the  
National Association for the Education  
of Young Children (NAEYC) and  
houses Great Start and Head Start  
as well as Early Childhood Special  
Education alongside our K-3 program.  
The goals of our early childhood  
program are language, gross-motor,  
concept, fine-motor, and social  
development, as well as encouragement  
to question, experiment, draw  
conclusions, make choices, and  
decisions. Young children aren't our  
only focus, however.

We're also excited about hosting a  
special program called, *A Pinky Promise*,

for the county. The mission of *A Pinky  
Promise* is to mentor young ladies and  
create meaningful, lasting relationships  
by covering a battery of topics that  
will assist them in learning to develop  
healthy relationships, understanding  
their self-worth, gaining financial  
management skills, and developing  
leadership skills to give them an edge  
upon entering a college or university.  
This program for young women is not  
the only way we stand out.

Through the Great Lakes Anchor  
Foundation, we also house the Sea  
Cadets which has partnered with  
Mount Clemens to provide a disciplined  
educational program focused on  
science, technology, engineering and  
math, and maritime exposure that  
will enable them to attend selective  
universities and colleges, and pursue  
careers in science, technology,  
engineering or mathematics (STEM).

We know you have choices. We also  
know how important it is for your  
child to have a chance to shine,  
and with fewer students, there are  
more opportunities to lead clubs  
and organizations and participate in  
athletics and plays. In our smaller  
district, teachers have time to  
individualize instruction and provide  
personal contact. Further, staff and  
students have an attitude of personal  
passion and involvement. This district  
is the heart of the community and it is  
beating strongly.

companies.

• **Red Theory Online Services LLC**  
relocated their offices from north  
Warren into the Cherry Street Mall  
storefront formerly occupied by  
Hunch Free.

• The **Macomb Children's Hands-  
On Museum** announced their future  
home on the northwest corner of Pine  
and New. The museum released a  
proposed facility rendering, showing  
a two-story building with a roof  
garden.

• For the first time in decades, the  
**Mount Clemens Farmers Market**  
returned to the downtown business  
district for a Wednesday Market pilot  
program. The mid-week Market was  
a huge hit with local residents and  
the business community. We hope to  
announce details of the 2014 Mount  
Clemens Farmers Market soon.

• Downtown Mount Clemens held  
its first ever **Restaurant Week**, inviting  
the community to explore the

diverse eateries in our downtown  
at a discounted price. Restaurants  
and retailers alike benefitted from an  
increased number of visitors in our  
downtown during an otherwise slow  
week of the year.

• WYCD 99.5 Country brought their  
**Nashville in the Neighborhood**  
concert series to our Downtown  
Mount Clemens streets for five  
Wednesday evenings. Talks are in  
the works to plan and improve next  
year's series.

• The inaugural **Downtown Mount  
Clemens Oktoberfest** was a  
tremendous success, and benefitted  
the entire downtown business  
community. Plans are already  
underway for next year's event.

The Mount Clemens Downtown  
Development Authority would like  
to take this opportunity to wish  
everyone a very happy and  
prosperous New Year. As we embark  
on the New Year, we will

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**Holiday Refuse Calendar**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

Monday, January 20, 2014

Garbage pickup will run on schedule January 20<sup>th</sup> through January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Presidents' Day**

Monday, February 17, 2014

Garbage pickup will be on schedule during the entire month of February.

**Christmas Tree Pickup**

A special yard waste collection truck is picking up Christmas trees on your regular garbage day until January 24<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure that trees are bare and not in a plastic bag when placed at the curb.

**Winter Snow Removal**

Please keep in mind the Street Department will be clearing all major streets first during a snowstorm. We will, however, plow the side streets as quickly as possible once the major streets are clear.

This winter during snowstorms, please park your vehicles at an off-street location. Parking in a driveway or parking lot will be greatly appreciated. On-street parking can resume after the City has plowed the streets.

Whenever there is an abundance of snow accumulated or there is a possibility that snow will accumulate to extraordinary depths, the City may declare a "Snow Emergency" per City of Mount Clemens Ordinance #30.030. Local television and radio news stations will be alerted when a snow emergency has been declared and cancelled. Tune in for this information during snowstorms or excessive snow falls.

After the initial notice of a snow emergency has been declared, please remove all vehicles within six (6) hours on any major streets and/or within twelve (12) hours on local streets or alleys. Vehicles not

removed from the streets during a Snow Emergency may be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense. Once the entire street has been cleared of snow from curb to curb and no additional snow has accumulated or is predicted to accumulate, or the Snow Emergency has been terminated, vehicles may then resume parking on that street.

If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact the Department of Public Services at 586.469.6847.

**UPCOMING HOLIDAYS**

The City of Mount Clemens will be closed during the following holidays:

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
Monday, January 20, 2014

**Presidents' Day**  
Monday, February 17, 2014

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- Value for the following year. From that point forward, the Taxable Value is capped until the next transfer.

**Physical Changes**

- Any change in Assessed Value due to a physical change will also change the Taxable Value beyond the CPI increase. Any loss in value would be subtracted and any new value would be added after applying the Inflation Rate Multiplier/CPI. All assessments are based on what is physically on the property as of each December 31<sup>st</sup>. Most maintenance items such as roofs, siding, windows, etc., are not considered as a physical addition to the property.

**Inflation Rate Multiplier/CPI**

- Every year the State of Michigan calculates the Inflation Rate Multiplier. The multiplier is calculated by statute, on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as measured by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics and is based on a two year average of the consumer price index using the state's fiscal year. All property in Michigan will have an average increase based on the Inflation Rate Multiplier or 5% (whichever is lower). The 2014 Inflation Rate Multiplier/CPI is 1.016.

**Market Value**

- The Assessed Value represents 50% of a property's Market Value. The figure is calculated through a study of sales in the City for a two year period. The State regulated dates for the two year study time frame are 10/1/2011 through 9/30/2013. The City is divided into nine (9) different study areas and sales in each area are evaluated to establish the percentage that values will change.

**Foreclosures**

- The State Tax Commission has issued specific guidelines regarding the inclusion of foreclosure sales in assessor's sales studies. These guidelines require the assessor to review each foreclosure sale utilizing the established criteria. The assessor makes a determination based on the guidelines whether to include specific sales in the study.

- For a list of **Frequently Asked Questions**, please visit [www.cityofmountclemens.com/assessing.htm](http://www.cityofmountclemens.com/assessing.htm).

**The Mount Clemens Train Depot – Supporting Our History**

The Mount Clemens Train Depot is located at 200 Grand Avenue west of the downtown area in the City of Mount Clemens. It was built in 1859 as a passenger depot along the Grand Trunk's Port Huron to Detroit line. The Depot was designated a Michigan State Historic Site in 1973 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. Since 1980, through a lease agreement with the City, the Michigan Transit Museum has occupied and helped care for the buildings and grounds. The Michigan Transit Museum was established in 1973 as a non-profit corporation to compile and record historical data on mass transportation systems and equipment, and to collect, preserve, display and operate such equipment.

Since 2010, the City has partnered with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office and the federal National Park Service on two grant projects for the exterior rehabilitation of our historic Train Depot. As a Certified Local Government through these agencies, the City has been able to utilize special grant funds to complete the repair

and restoration of exterior brick and masonry, the repair and painting of exterior woodwork and arched brackets, and the rehabilitation and painting of exterior windows on the south facing wall. These projects have amounted to an approximate \$50,000 investment into the Train Depot. The majority of this funding has come from the Federal Government, including Community Development Block Grant Funds, which have been used as the local match for the previous two grant projects.

The City is currently in the final stages of submitting a third grant application for the replacement of the roof at the Train Depot, which would complete the exterior rehabilitation of this important resource. This project has a projected budget of \$40,000, of which \$24,000 would be funded by the National Park Service. As a part of the grant application, the City Commission has adopted a resolution which commits up to \$16,000 in City funds to be used for the local match. This was necessary due to no Community Development Block Grant funds being available

for this grant cycle. **While the City has committed to supply this funding, the goal is to seek corporate and private donations to offset the local match amount.** The Michigan Transit Museum has agreed to assist in the fundraising effort. Very recently, the Mah-Nah-Be-Zee Questers #198 have agreed to commit \$2,000 towards the \$16,000 local match.

As we enter the winter months, please take some time to consider a donation to the Michigan Transit Museum for the roof project. The Michigan Transit Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, run entirely by unpaid volunteers. Any donations received in excess of the \$16,000 would be used towards rehabilitation projects of the other structures at the Train Depot property.

If you have any questions about the upcoming grant project or are interested in a donation, please contact the Community Development Department at 586.469.6818 x2. For general questions about the Train Depot or this fundraising effort, please contact the Michigan Transit Museum at 586.463.1863.

## RESIDENT SURVEY RESULTS

We asked residents of Mount Clemens to complete the Resident Survey so we can better understand the services that are important to you. Surveys were distributed to residents inside the *Journal* newspaper October 2, 2013, and were also available on the City's website and at City Hall. A total of 396 surveys were completed and returned by the November 12, 2013 deadline. The following are the results of the survey. Thank you to all residents who took the time to take part in this survey. If you have any questions, please call the City Manager's Office at 586.469.6818 x315.

### Section 1:

To maintain the current level of Sheriff Department services, I would support a Charter Amendment to increase the millage. **YES: 260 NO: 122**

To maintain the current level of Fire Department services, I would support a Charter Amendment to increase the millage. **YES: 257 NO: 124**

To maintain current levels of City services, I would support a local income tax rather than an increase in property taxes. **YES: 172 NO: 199**

I would prefer to see City services reduced rather than pay additional taxes. **YES: 128 NO: 241**

### Section 2:

	Essential 5	Very Important 4	Neutral 3	Not Very Important 2	Not at all Important 1
Sheriff Staffing Level (current staffing level: 4 per shift)	255	89	32	7	2
Sheriff Neighborhood Patrols	248	106	29	4	2
Traffic Enforcement	135	130	73	21	13
Full-time Fire Department Staffing Level (current staffing level: 4 per shift)	235	83	42	15	10
Fire Safety Education	101	108	102	48	23
Fire Code Enforcement	134	132	73	23	15
Volunteer Fire Department	130	128	94	11	15
Snow Removal	209	128	38	8	3
Tree Trimming and Removal	106	142	100	22	13
Neighborhood Road Repairs	152	162	59	10	3
Street Sweeping	85	128	112	35	19
Roadside/Median Maintenance	85	129	120	32	17
City Parks Maintenance	86	155	108	24	10
City Street Tree Planting/Replacement	67	94	127	54	35
Dial-A-Ride	155	108	66	23	30
Building Inspection Services	104	147	83	31	16
Code/Blight Enforcement Services	131	135	59	34	19
Rental Registration & Inspection Program	117	127	83	32	20
Vacant/Abandoned Residential Structure Registration Program	125	140	81	17	21
Certificate of Occupancy Program for Vacant/Abandoned Residential Structures	114	138	92	17	21
On-Line Bill Payment	47	71	129	55	78
City Hall Hours of Operation (Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)	87	98	133	30	33
Response Time for Water Bill Issues (high bill, reread, final read, stop box/curb stop issue, meter issue, leaks, etc.)	77	128	121	41	18
Response Time for Street Drain Issues, Sewer Backups, or Low Water Meter Pressure	159	143	62	16	7

### Section 3: Primary sources of information about City services:

Local Publications (The Macomb Daily, The Journal)	230
City of Mount Clemens Clementimes Newsletter	204
City of Mount Clemens Website ( <a href="http://www.cityofmountclemens.com">www.cityofmountclemens.com</a> )	102
Word of Mouth	90
Viewing City Commission Meetings (aired on Cable TV or viewed online)	60
Viewing the Cable TV Governmental Channel (Comcast – channel 5 / WOW – channel 10 / AT&T Uverse – channel 99)	53
Macomb Cable Network Community Calendar ( <a href="http://www.mcnetv.com">www.mcnetv.com</a> )	28

### Section 4:

Do you use the City's on-line bill payment program? **YES: 15 NO: 366**

Would you like the City to accept credit card payments at City Hall? **YES: 140 NO: 59 NO OPINION: 182**

Are you a registered voter? **YES: 364 NO: 20**

How long have you lived in Mount Clemens?

over 50 years	93	21-30 years	44
1-10 years	89	31-40 years	28
11-20 years	67	less than 1 year	9
41-50 years	45		

Do you rent or own your residence? **RENT: 104 OWN: 260**

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keep you informed on new, exciting developments and projects that are percolating within our Downtown district.

For the latest information on our upcoming events and happenings,

- Visit our website: [DowntownMountClemens.com](http://DowntownMountClemens.com).
- Like the Official Downtown Mount Clemens Facebook Page: [Facebook.com/DowntownMountClemens](http://Facebook.com/DowntownMountClemens)
- Follow us on Twitter: @MountClemensDDA

## CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

*Lynne Kennedy*  
City Clerk

The City Clerk's Office prides itself in providing friendly and professional public service. The responsibilities of the City Clerk's Office include the following: Animal Licenses, Business Registrations, Preparation of City Commission minutes, Freedom of Information Act Coordinator, Election Administration, Voter Registration, Maintain Code of Ordinances, Maintain Public Records, Custodian of the Municipal Seal, Updating the City Website.

### Code of Ordinances

City ordinances are available for review at the City Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The Mount Clemens Public Library also has a copy of our ordinances on file for your convenience. If you like to use your computer to search for documents, the ordinances can be found online through a link on our website [www.cityofmountclemens.com](http://www.cityofmountclemens.com).

### Don't Want Solicitors Knocking On Your Door? Sign Up For Our "No-Knock" List

The City recently adopted an ordinance that would regulate door-to-door solicitors. As part of this ordinance, the City Clerk's Office has established a "no-knock" list. This list will be given to all permitted solicitors and they will be advised that if they attempt to solicit at addresses on the list, their permit may be revoked. If you would like your address to be added to our "no-knock" list, please call the City Clerk's Office at 586.469.6818 x3 or send us an email at [lkennedy@cityofmountclemens.com](mailto:lkennedy@cityofmountclemens.com). **Please Note:** The "no-knock" list is for residential properties only.