



A Quarterly Publication from the City of Mount Clemens

January/February/March 2016

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

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

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Messages from Mayor Barb Dempsey

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. -Hal Borland

Happy New Year! I hope that everyone had a great holiday season and that we all have a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.

This year, the 40th Annual Santa Parade was changed to the Saturday before Thanksgiving. Thank you to the many who volunteered, our sponsors and all of the participants that helped make this event possible. This year's parade was very successful with increased participation. We had the most volunteers we've ever had and the crowds were up significantly from past years, even with our first snowstorm of the winter season.

Thank you to all those that came out to watch the parade and support this longtime tradition!

With a new year, comes an opportunity for new beginnings and new experiences. Please consider volunteering for one of our many Boards and Committees. The City is always looking for fresh ideas and the chance to work with our residents. For a complete list of the current vacancies, please see the City Clerk's article on page 3.

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City Commission Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, January 19, 2016*
 - Monday, February 1, 2016
 - Tuesday, February 16, 2016*
 - Monday, March 7, 2016
 - Monday, March 21, 2016
- * Date changed due to holiday

Agendas and videos of past City Commission meetings are available on our website www.cityofmountclemens.com.

ASSESSING

Nancy Strehl
Assessor

A Resident's Guide to Understanding Assessments

IMPORTANT ASSESSING DATES

ASSESSMENT NOTICES SHOULD BE IN THE MAIL BY MARCH 4, 2016

MARCH BOARD OF REVIEW DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2016:
9 AM – NOON AND 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016:
1 PM – 4 PM AND 6 PM – 9 PM

APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY

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 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 2. A physical change to the Property or 3. Change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) not to exceed 5%, this is also referred to as the Inflation Rate Multiplier.

Survey Inside

The City is participating on a committee seeking feedback on how the County should redevelop the vacant property that will remain after demolition of the parking structure at the corner of Market and North Main (next to the Circuit Court Building). One proposed use for the property is a Downtown park!

The committee has developed a survey to assist with County planning for this exciting opportunity. The City has included a survey with this edition of the Clementimes Newsletter and the survey can also be found at www.cityofmountclemens.com.

Please share your thoughts by completing the survey and returning it to the address shown in the lower right corner of the survey!

Transfer of Ownership

When a transfer of ownership takes place on a property, the Taxable Value is uncapped to the Assessed 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 31st.

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The Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous 2016. As we embark on the New Year, we will keep you informed on new, exciting developments and projects that are percolating within our Downtown district. Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for the most up to date information on events and new happenings in Downtown Mount Clemens.

Downtown Mount Clemens Events Calendar

11th Annual Fire and Ice Chili

Cook-Off Fundraiser

Thursday, February 4

Starts at 6 PM

At Participating Bars and Restaurants Downtown

Tickets can be purchased in advance at participating establishments
586.469.4168

Proceeds benefit Mount Clemens Goodfellows and the Anton Art Center

11th Annual Mount Clemens Ice Carving Show

Friday, February 5 through

Sunday, February 7

Centered near the Fountain Stage at Macomb Place & Cherry Street Mall Show formally opens at 4 PM Friday and runs through Sunday evening
586.469.4168

Live ice carving will be taking place from midday Thursday to midday Sunday. The Family Warming Center features fun and activities for the entire family.

Interested in sponsoring a sculpture? Details are available at: DowntownMountClemens.com/events

Valentine's Day

Sunday, February 14

Shop & Dine Local – Shop, dine, and have a great time in Downtown Mount Clemens

St. Patrick's Day

Thursday, March 17

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day in Downtown Mount Clemens at our variety of restaurants and bars.

Made in Michigan Show

Friday, May 6 through

Saturday, May 7

Interested vendors can get forms online at: DowntownMountClemens.com/events

Stay tuned for our soon to be announced complete line up of events for 2016.

For more information on these and other upcoming events, log on to: DowntownMountClemens.com.

Visit our website:

DowntownMountClemens.com.

Like the Official Downtown Mount Clemens Facebook Page: Facebook.com/DowntownMountClemens

Follow us on Twitter:

[@MountClemensDDA](https://twitter.com/MountClemensDDA)

UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Monday, January 18, 2016

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 15, 2016

Good Friday

Friday, March 25, 2016

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Lori Holland
Deputy Treasurer

Winter Tax Bills

City of Mount Clemens Winter tax bills were mailed and should have been received around December 1, 2015. Tax payments are due by February 29, 2016.

Property taxes may be paid to the City by 1) Mail check or money order payable to the City of Mount Clemens, note Parcel ID with payment. 2) Go to City Hall Treasurer's Office to pay with cash, check or money order and a receipt will be issued. 3) Pay online at the City's website www.cityofmountclemens.com using Mastercard or Visa, a 2.75% processing fee applies. Click Pay Your Property Taxes link under Make Online Payments. 4) call 866.789.5536. Check payments must be clear or receipt is void and the City is not responsible if paid on wrong description. The tax bill is a record copy when taxes are paid by a mortgage company.

Any tax amounts that remain unpaid after February 29, 2016 will be

Drop Box Now Available



The City has installed a Drop Box in the City Hall Parking Lot to facilitate transacting City

business without leaving a vehicle. This is offered to accommodate those with a physical handicap as well as to provide a convenient option for any of our customers.

The Drop Box is located in the center island at the rear of our parking lot, near the Gazebo and the Clinton River. The best way to approach and use the Drop Box is to enter the parking lot from the drive nearest the Fire Station on First

Street and proceed to the back of the lot and turn left; the Drop Box is in the second island and on the left.

The Drop Box can be accessed 24 hours per day/seven days a week for any City business that does not require immediate interaction with an employee. This includes bill payments (taxes, water bills, tickets, etc.), forms for processing, absentee voter ballots, etc. Cash should NOT be deposited into the Drop Box.

We are excited to offer this new option to our customers and look forward to seeing how popular it becomes!

Looking for Photos!

The Mount Clemens Historic District Commission is planning to update the photo card file of our beautiful but changing neighborhood streets. Help us with this fun, spring outdoor project.

Call 586.469.8781 for information

transferred to the Macomb County Treasurer's Office for collection. The Macomb County Treasurer's Office may be contacted at 586.469.5190.

Transparency

Taxpayers may view the City of Mount Clemens Open Government Transparency & Accountability Data on the City's website at www.cityofmountclemens.com. Click on the Munetrix tab or the Dashboard/Citizens Guide link under the Government section.

Riverfront Gazebo

Are you getting married in 2016 or know someone who is? The Treasurer's Office will start taking 2016 reservations for the gazebo on February 1, 2016. Fees are: \$50.00 for the first hour and \$25.00 for each additional hour. This beautiful location provides a unique background for wedding pictures.

Dog/Cat Licenses

Purchase annual animal licenses for 2016 in the Treasurer's Office. New animal licenses will expire

01/01/2017. All renewals must be made during the months of January and February or will be subject to a penalty charge. Bring Veterinarian signed rabies certificate when applying. Fees are: \$8.00/neutered and \$15.00/not neutered.

How to Pay a Parking Ticket

There are several easy ways to pay a parking ticket: 1) Write a check or money order payable to the City of Mount Clemens and mail in the envelope provided with the ticket. 2) Go to City Hall Treasurer's Office to pay by cash, check or money order and a receipt will be issued. 3) Pay online at City's website www.cityofmountclemens.com using Mastercard or Visa, a \$1.50 processing fee applies. Click Pay Your Parking Ticket link under Make Online Payments or 4) call 866.789.5536.

Prepaid Parking Cards and Quarterly Parking Permits may be purchased at City Hall in the Treasurer's Office.

Holiday Refuse Calendar

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Monday, January 18, 2016

Garbage pickup will run **on schedule** January 18th through January 22nd.

Presidents' Day

Monday, February 15, 2016

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

Good Friday

Friday, March 25, 2016

Garbage pickup will run **on schedule** during the entire month of March.

Christmas Tree Pickup

A special yard waste collection truck is picking up Christmas Trees on your regular garbage day until January 22nd. 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, so 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.

Elections

This year, the City will be conducting 3 State/Federal elections: March 8, 2016 Presidential Primary, August 2, 2016 State Primary and November 8, 2016 State General (Presidential).

Vote by Absentee Ballot!

Avoid standing in line at the polls, or if you will not be able to attend the polls to vote on Election Day, or if you would like to be added to our Permanent Absentee list, you may request an Absentee Voter's Ballot from the City Clerk's Office. To obtain an absentee ballot, voters must meet one of the following criteria: 1) I am 60 years of age or older; 2) I am physically unable to attend the polls without assistance of another; 3) I am an appointed precinct worker in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside; 4) I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day; 5) I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion; 6) I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Would you like to be added to the Permanent Absentee List?

For those voters who are 60 years of age or older, and prefer to vote by absentee ballot, request that your name be added to the City's Permanent Absentee List. By being on the Permanent Absentee List, applications for absentee ballots will automatically be mailed to you prior to every election. If you would like to vote absentee in that election, just complete the application, return it to the City Clerk's Office, and we will mail you the absentee ballot. Once your ballot arrives, cast your vote and return the ballot to the City

Clerk's Office before Election Day.

If you receive the application and prefer not to vote by absentee ballot for that election, simply do not return the absent voter's application and you may vote at the precinct instead. Voting at the precinct on election day will not remove your name from the Permanent Absentee List.

Election Workers Needed

Interested in working at a precinct for future Elections? Please contact the City Clerk's Office for an application. This application can also be found on the City's website, www.cityofmountclemens.com, on the City Clerk's page. To qualify as an Election Inspector, you must be at least 18 years old, a registered voter in the State of Michigan, and attend a training session prior to the Election and once every two years thereafter.

Boards & Committees

If you would like to volunteer to serve on one of the City's many Boards & Committees, please contact the City Clerk's Office for an application. There are currently openings on the following boards: Beautification Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, Board of Zoning Appeals-Alternate, Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, Harbor Commission, Historical Commission, Historic District Commission, and Traffic Safety Committee.

If you should have any questions or would like further information, please contact the City Clerk's Office at 586.469.6818, option 3, or email the City Clerk at lborgacz@cityofmountclemens.com.

Mount Clemens Volunteer Fire Department

The City of Mount Clemens has openings for *Volunteer Firefighters*.

The list of qualifications as well as the Application for Employment are available at the Human Resources Department, City of Mount Clemens, One Crocker Boulevard, Mount Clemens, MI 48043. You can also visit our website, www.cityofmountclemens.com.

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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 (CPI). 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 based on the state fiscal year. All property in Michigan will have an average increase based on the Inflation Rate Multiplier or 5% (whichever is lower). The 2016 Inflation Rate Multiplier (CPI) is 1.003.

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 one year period. The State regulated dates

for the two year study time frame are 10/1/2013 through 9/30/2015. 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 and click on Assessing under the Services link.

The Anton Art Center Exhibits, Educates and Inspires

Join us at the Anton Art Center in Downtown Mount Clemens for new art class offerings this winter season. With a wide range of media, there's something to appeal to all ages and interests.

"Mixed Media Saturday Workshops" introduces youngsters ages 6 to 12 to contour drawing, perspective, acrylics, watercolor, 3-D mapping, wood collages and much, much more. Participants are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions. Ages 6 and up can try their hands at clay art in both youth and adult classes in hand building, wheel throwing, and more. Scout groups are welcome to make a workshop appointment to earn their art badge.

New Saturday afternoon "Creative Reading and Writing" sessions examine the use of character development, point of view, setting, dialogue, symbolism and grammar

to inspire a greater understanding of how writers hone their craft.

Adults 18 and over can choose from a variety of class selections to bridge the gap to Spring: "Intermediate Drawing", "Beginning Oil Painting", "Drawing to Paint", "Photoshop Practice", "Exploring Watercolor", "Loom Weaving", "Beginning Ceramics", "Applied Ceramics", "Open Ceramics", and "Open Clay Studio".

Let the Anton Art Center help you express your inner artist in 2016!

The Anton Art Center's mission is to enrich and inspire people of all ages through the arts. Visit www.theartcenter.org or call 586.469.8666 for complete class schedule (dates, times, and fees as well as policies and procedures). Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis and is accepted by mail, phone or in person at the Anton Art Center.

The Mount Clemens Train Depot – Preserving our Past

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 three 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 the exterior brick and masonry, the repair and painting of exterior woodwork and arched brackets, the rehabilitation and painting of exterior windows on the south facing wall, and most recently this past year, the installation of a new roof. These projects have amounted to a nearly \$90,000 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 two of three grant projects.

The most recent roof replacement project was made possible through the generosity of several organizations and individuals who donated a total of \$10,000 to help offset the City's local match for the grant project. Because of this, the City spent only \$2,146.20 towards actual construction costs for a new roof at the Train Depot. Below are those that contributed towards the project:

Local & National Questers
Nickel & Saph, Inc.
Bath City Association
Lawrence Bernard
Nathan Nietering
Lois Hill
Mike Washenko & Lori Patterson
Harry Hodgson
Carolee Schmid
Phil Kent
Patrick Lomansey
Ronald Kluce
Paul Martin
John Jamison
Dave & Jane Jandron
Gary Allum
Raymond Radway
Karl Joost
Gary Michaels

On behalf of the City, its Historic District Commission and the Transit Museum, I would like to thank all those who helped to complete the rehabilitation of this historic Mount Clemens structure.

Mount Clemens Community Schools

Learning about Teaching and Learning

Continuing professional development is important because it ensures that teachers continue to grow as professionals. It is an ongoing process and continues throughout any professional's career.

In addition, research shows that the steps we take to improve teacher skills and knowledge lead to better results for students.

With that in mind, teachers at both King STEAM and Seminole Academies have the opportunity to attend 32 hours of paid professional learning intended to strengthen their practice.

Teachers will engage in a total of 13 after-school or Saturday morning sessions. Sessions are designed to: increase student engagement; improve student-writing, reading-to-learn, and problem-solving skills; assist teachers with using data to make instructional decisions, and differentiate instruction.

These learning sessions are parts of a coherent, focused program developed in cooperation with the representatives from the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD).



They will bolster teacher skills and knowledge to ensure that every teacher is better able to teach diverse learners, knowledgeable about student learning, competent in core academic content, and skillful at the craft of teaching.

In addition to these sessions outside the day, elementary teachers participate in weekly grade-level meetings with the principal to design formative assessments, discuss the results from the previous week, and determine which intervention or enrichment sessions students will attend.

Teams of teachers are also attending Balanced Assessment training at the MISD to learn to implement the Instructional Learning Cycle (ILC) process effectively. The ILC process is a defined structure that promotes collaboration and collective responsibility within a teacher team by setting up structures for short term cycles of improvement.

Crocker House Museum

Sunday, March 6, 1 PM
Children's Etiquette Class at Crocker House Museum

Learn the essentials in proper etiquette with certified Etiquette Instructor Kim Parr.

This interactive presentation will teach children everyday etiquette, introductions, handshakes, and table manners.

Class will include dessert.

Cost is \$15.00 per person and registration is required as space is limited. Ages 6 to 13 is recommended.



Your place for:

- Learn-to-Skate Classes
- Public Skating
- Youth/Adult Hockey
- Birthday Parties
- Group Outings/Field Trips

To obtain information regarding these programs, please call the arena at 586.307.8202 or visit www.mountclemensicearena.com.