

STRAIGHT

TALK

about the August 6, 2013 Police & Fire Millage Renewal



On Tuesday, August 6 voters in St. Clair Shores will make a decision that affects every resident in the City. **The issue: The renewal of the three-year millage used only for Police and Fire operations and capital equipment needs.** As taxpayers are aware, the current Police & Fire millage expires June 30, 2014. The following questions and answers are designed to provide you with the facts to make an informed decision. **Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. or you can vote by Absentee ballot.** Whatever method you choose, become well-informed about the issue before you mark your ballot, then VOTE!

Ballot Language: City Proposal 1... Special Election
Shall the Charter of the City of St. Clair Shores be amended to authorize, for a period of three years, beginning July 1, 2014, the levy and collection of a new millage up to 2.0 mills per \$1,000.00 of taxable valuation (2.0) of state taxable value which is estimated to produce \$2,647,305.00 of collections in the first year to be exclusively used for the Police and Fire Department operations and guarantee that the City of St. Clair Shores employ no fewer than 90 personnel in the Police Department and no fewer than 50 personnel in the Fire Department?



Why is a millage that helps support Police and Fire operations on the ballot?

The City's two largest revenue sources, property taxes and State Shared Revenue, have been significantly decreased as a result of declining property values and a nation-wide recession. Communities such as ours depend on this revenue to help support the services YOU, our residents, demand and expect. The revenue generated by Proposal 1 helps defray some of the expenses of Police and Fire operations.



What has the City done to reduce expenses?

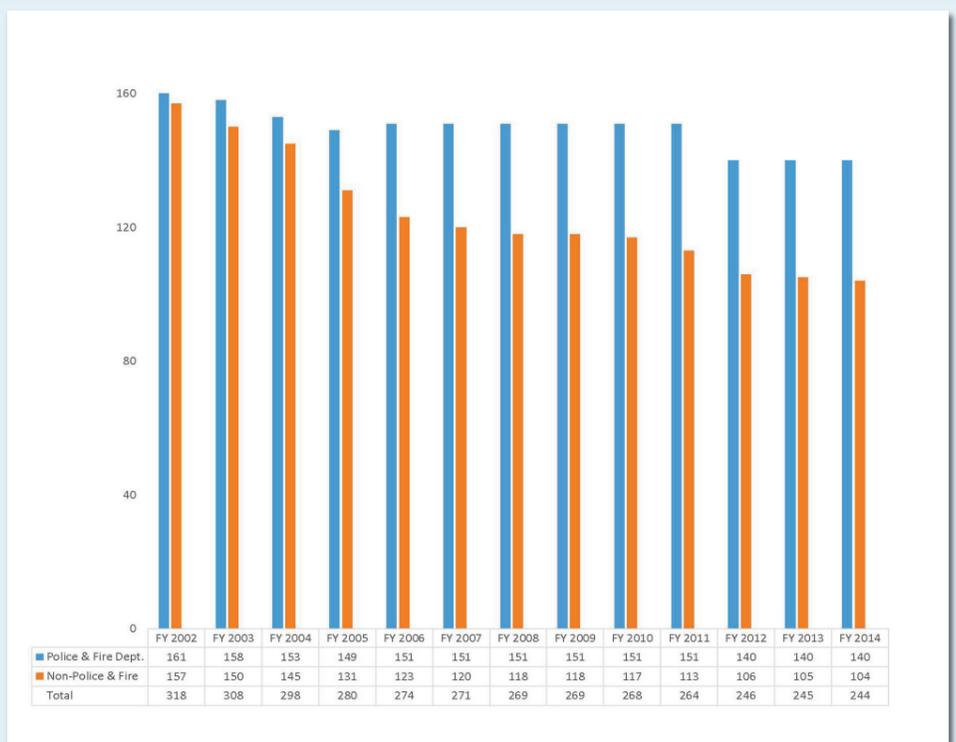
Up to this point, the City has found ways to balance the budget without affecting public services. Cuts already made include...



- **Cuts in the personnel.** As you can see from the chart on the right, the number of total full-time budgeted personnel has decreased by 74 positions over the last thirteen years - 21 in the Police and Fire Departments and 53 eliminated across all other City departments through attrition, mainly retirements.



- **City employees have made concessions in healthcare benefits and in the reduction of overtime.** As employment contracts expire, the City continues to make modifications to healthcare and retirement benefits for new hires.



**about the August 6, 2013
Police & Fire Millage Renewal**



How has the millage changed the average homeowner's tax bill over the last three years?

TAXABLE TAX YEAR	AVERAGE TAXABLE VALUE	POLICE/FIRE MILLAGE	TAX
7/1/2008	\$ 66,426	1.5656	\$ 104
7/1/2011	\$ 48,198	2.0000	\$ 96
7/1/2013	\$ 41,759	2.0000	\$ 84

The chart above shows that over the last six years (2008-2013), the average homeowner's taxable value decreased by 37% based on the declining market values of property. Since your taxes are based on the Taxable Value per thousand times the millage rate, the average police/fire operating tax decreased by \$20 or 19% over the same period of time.



Bottom line...what will the renewal of the Police & Fire Millage cost me?

Taxable Value	Current Cost	Renewal Cost
\$ 25,000	\$ 50	\$ 50
\$ 41,759**	\$ 84	\$ 84
\$ 75,000	\$150	\$150
\$100,000	\$ 200	\$200

* NOTE: THE Market Value of a home is approximately two times the taxable value.

** Calculated based on current average taxable value of \$41,759



What guarantees do I have that the money collected will be used for Police and Fire operations only and not for other General Fund expenditures?

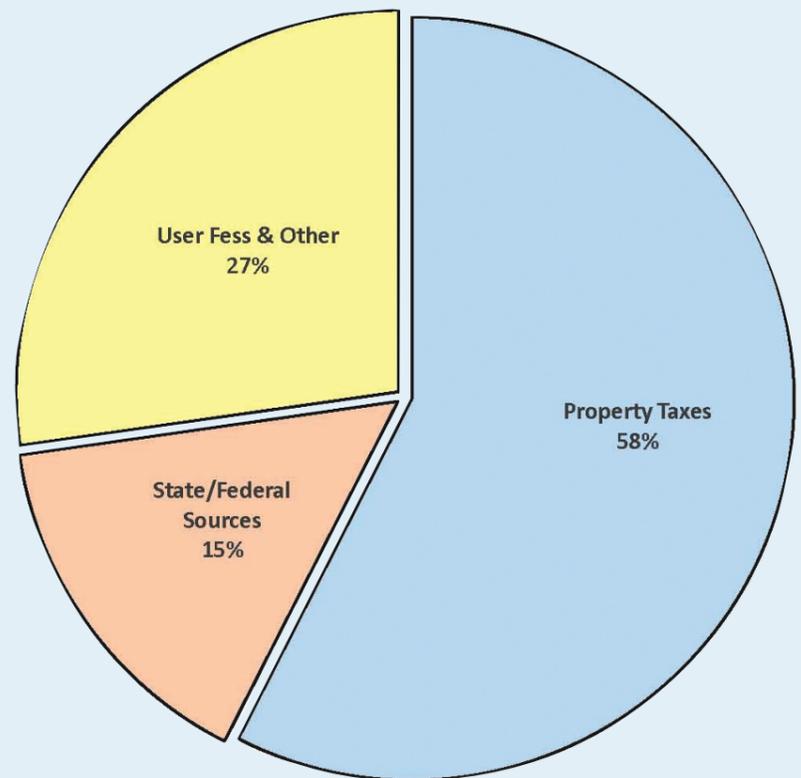
The guarantee that taxpayers have that the money collected from Proposal 1 can be found in the wording of the ballot proposal itself. Proposal 1 states that the monies are *to be exclusively used for the Police and Fire Department operations and guarantee that the City of St. Clair Shores employ no fewer than 90 personnel in the Police Department and no fewer than 50 personnel in the Fire Department.*

The City is legally bound to spend the money collected from taxpayers on the Police and Fire departments and to limit the millage to three years. The total combined budgets of the Police and Fire departments for the 2013-2014 FY equals approximately \$21 million. The revenue realized from this renewal is only meant to supplement the total operating budget of these two departments. It is not intended to pay for their operations in their entirety. The additional funding from the Police & Fire Millage takes the pressure off the rest of the General Fund and allows the City to maintain other vital services such as snow plowing, tree trimming, road construction, maintenance of our neighborhood and waterfront parks, and senior services.



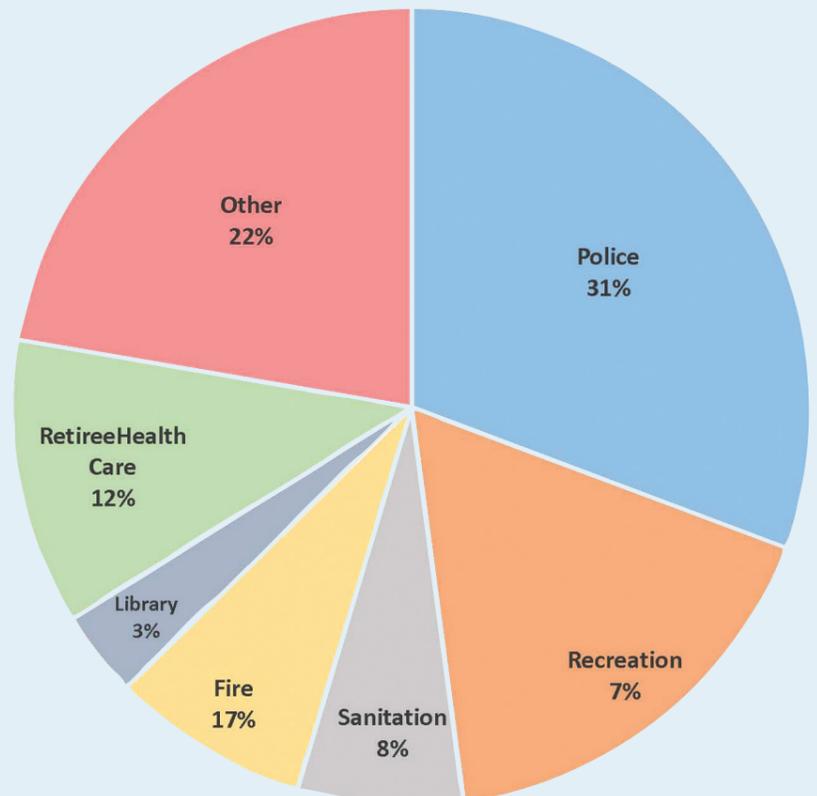
Where does the General Fund Revenue come from?

As you can see from the chart below the majority of the revenues within the General Fund comes from property taxes. The second largest single revenue source comes from the State and Federal government, primarily the State's distribution of sales tax (better known as State Shared Revenue). The last component of revenue sources comes from a variety of user fees, permit fees, fees collected at the 40th District Court and inter-governmental service charges.



Where are the General Fund dollars spent?

As the chart below indicates the General Fund supports a multitude of services provided to our residents, with the two largest single departments being Police and Fire. Combined, they make up 48% of the General Fund budget. The "Other" portion of this graph is made up of several administrative departments, such as City Clerk, Finance, Community Development, 40th District Court, City Attorney, and others.



COUNCIL CONNECTION



Council Member
John D. Caron

When I first took my seat on City Council, it was my hope to use my personal experiences gained through life to benefit the residents. Despite the financial storm we have been navigating

through, we have made positive changes for the residents.

One example of this is the new City website. I served on the Website Committee that developed the specifications, chose the website design vendor and implemented the new website. We took what was an informational posting website and transformed it into a resident interaction site. It has been up and running for 6 months now.

The Notify Me feature sends an email to the website user anytime a change is made to an agenda or a page on the site. I use this feature often to keep up with the various meetings that occur throughout the month.

The Report a Concern feature allows a resident to send the City an issue and ensures that it gets to the correct person for action. It requires the City to send a response to the resident on what action was taken. To date, over 600 concerns have been reported using this tool.

The new Media Center allows on-demand viewing of all SCS-TV programming, including several past City Council meetings. Residents can now view meetings on their own personal schedule. Each program has been getting over 300 views on-line. We have also put special events on-line, like the parade and fireworks.

The City website will continue to evolve, as any good website should.

Another positive change is the bright red trucks that now visit our neighborhoods for waste disposal. At the beginning of July, the City changed waste haulers from Waste Management to Rizzo Environmental. This change came about after a lengthy bidding process.

I served on the Waste Disposal Committee to develop the detailed specifications, reviewed all bids and made a final recommendation to City Council. The end result was a change in companies and a major benefit to our residents.

The new contract saves \$1.5 million over the first 5 years of the contract. That savings will enable the City to continue many other sanitation related services for years to come. Also, starting next spring, the City will be able to host an annual hazardous waste disposal day.

The change also provided for an optional cart system for the residents. Residents can get a free large recycling cart directly from Rizzo. They can also purchase waste carts from the City. Some residents wanted this service, however, others did not; so, we negotiated with Rizzo to give residents the option.

Look for more positive changes in the future.

If you have any comments, please e-mail me at caronj@scsmi.net or call me at 586-777-0611.

Your vote... your choice... Primary Election Aug 6



I will be out of town on August 6, can I still vote?

Yes. You can apply for an absent voter's ballot. Every voter is required to complete a written request to receive an absentee ballot that

indicates one of six statutory reasons to be eligible to receive the ballot. One of the reasons is "I am absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day." You may use the absentee ballot application found on page 4 of this issue, pick one up at the City Clerk's Office in City Hall or go to the City's website at [www.scsmi.org...City Hall...Departments...Election...Absentee Ballot Application](http://www.scsmi.org...CityHall...Departments...Election...AbsenteeBallotApplication). Fill out the application, sign it and submit it to the City Clerk's Office by mail at 27600 Jefferson Circle Drive, 48081 or drop it off in the white mailbox in front of City Hall. The deadline for acceptance of applications for absentee ballot requests by mail, fax or email is Saturday, August 3 at 2:00 p.m. Voters making a late request must appear in person at the City's Clerk's Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5. Once you obtain a ballot, you are not allowed to leave the building with the ballot. You must vote the ballot in persons and return it to the City Clerk's Office immediately.



When does my absentee ballot need to be returned?

Before the polls close at 8:00 p.m. on August 6. Do not mail in your absentee ballot if you are not sure that the City will receive it on time. You

can drop it off in the white mailbox in front of City Hall at any time. City employees check the box several times a day or you can drop it off in City Hall during regular business hours...Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The City Clerk's Office will also be open on Saturday, August 3 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for absentee voting. Registered voters can also vote by absentee ballot at the City Clerk's office until 4:00 p.m. on Monday, August 5.



I received my absentee ballot in the mail, but there are no instructions on the ballot. Where are they?

The Michigan Legislature passed Public Act 128 that removed the instructions from all ballots. Review the Purple Ballot Marking Instructions included on a separate sheet with your absentee ballot. They are also included at all voting locations on the ballot secrecy folder.



Do I need a picture ID to vote at a precinct on Election Day?

Yes. Picture identification is required to vote and poll workers will ask for it before your receive ballot. Acceptable forms of identification include

a Michigan driver's license, a state-issued personal ID card, a U.S. Passport or military ID with a photo, or a student ID. If you do not have a picture ID, you can vote after completing an affidavit at the polls on Election Day.



What time are the polls open on Election Day, August 6?

The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Did the City combine any precincts for this election?

Yes. Per law, the City can combine precincts, if needed. Precincts 7-10, 9-12, 11-16, 14-15, 18-21, and 20-24 will be set up as one precinct . By

sharing one voting location, the precincts will now need only one set of precinct workers; thus, saving the City \$1500 per precinct,

Inside Our City



During the Audience Participation portion of a recent City Council meeting a resident told a moving story about his experiences with our Fire and Police departments.



Mayor
Kip C. Walby

Seven months ago he suffered a massive heart attack and passed away. He was not breathing on his own for twenty minutes. His wife called 911 and both the St. Clair Shores Fire and Police departments came to his aide.

The resident credits the quick thinking and skill of our Fire Department paramedics with saving his life. In a touching tribute, he thanked the paramedics and the police officers who were sent out to assist his family. Time and time again we hear stories of gratitude from residents, their families and friends for the skill, bravery, devotion and professionalism of our Fire and Police personnel. I am very proud and grateful to the men and women who protect the lives and property of our citizens.

As you know, the renewal of the Police and Fire Milleage is on the ballot on August 6. The first two pages of this newsletter gives you some straight facts about the millage and the answers to some of the commonly asked questions. I would like to give you a few more "facts" about our Police and Fire Departments that you may not know about and could help you make a better informed decision.

In 2012...

The Police Department responded to 31,661 calls for service. A total of 2106 criminal arrests were made.

The Criminal Investigation Division investigated and solved seven armed robberies, 4 serial breaking and entering/home invasion crime spree and an unprecedented number of serious crimes committed in the City.

The K-9 Unit recovered and seized \$78,317 in illegal narcotics proceeds.

The Neighborhood Watch Program grew to a total of 129 Block Captains.

The Fire Department responded to 8,023 total incidents with a projected increase of ten percent for 2013.

The Fire Department responded to 5,661 EMS calls for service and made 4,528 transports to the hospital.

The Fire Marshall made 800 building inspections for fire safety potentially saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage.

I encourage you to exercise your right to VOTE on August 6th. Please, cast your VOTE for the renewal of the Police & Fire Milleage. The decision rests solely in your hands!

As always I welcome your comments or concerns, you can contact me by phone at 445-3983 or email at walbsy@scsmi.net.

St. Clair Shores Directory

27600 Jefferson Circle Dr.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2093



CITY HALL HOURS
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

St. Clair Shores Web Site
www.scsmi.net

Michael Smith

Interim City Manager
smithm@scsmi.net • 447-3311
Municipal Telephone Directory
Direct Dial Numbers

Assessing	447-3355
City Clerk	447-3303
City Manager	447-3311
Code Enforcement	447-3336
Communications Dept.	447-3414
Community Devel.	447-3340
D.P.W. Complex	445-5363
Finance	447-3324
Fire Department	445-5380
40th District Court	445-5280
Golf Course	294-2000
Housing-Leisure Manor	773-9200
Library	771-9020
Parks & Recreation	445-5350
Police Department	445-5300
Senior Activities Center	445-0996
Tax & Water Bills	447-3317
EMERGENCY	.911
NON-EMERGENCY	.777-6700

For Garbage Complaints:
Rizzo Environmental Services
866-772-8900
www.rizzoservices.com

City Council Contact Info:

Mayor Kip C. Walby
walby@scsmi.net • 445-3983

Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald J. Frederick
rfrederick@scsmi.net • 776-9880

Council Member John D. Caron
caronj@scsmi.net • 777-0611

Council Member Peter A. Rubino
rubinop@scsmi.net • 770-2695

Council Member Candice B. Rusie
rusiec@scsmi.net • 612-3098

Council Member Anthony G. Tiseo
tiseoa@scsmi.net • 634-0777

Council Member Chris M. Vitale
vitalec@scsmi.net • 801-4732

Inside St. Clair Shores

is a community newsletter published by the City of St. Clair Shores eight to ten times per year. It serves to educate and inform the residents and businesses in the City about issues, regulations, activities, and persons who have an impact on the quality of life in our community.

Mayor Kip C. Walby

Mayor Pro-Tem:
Ronald J. Frederick

Council Members:
John D. Caron
Peter A. Rubino
Candice B. Rusie
Anthony G. Tiseo
Chris M. Vitale

Interim City Manager:
Michael Smith

Editor-In-Chief:
Mary Jane D'Herde
Communications Director

We welcome your comments and suggestions about the content of this publication. Contact the Communications Department, 27600 Jefferson Circle Dr., St. Clair Shores, MI 48081 or call 447-3414 or email at maryjane@scsmi.net.

Absent Voter Ballot Application

Application for absent voter ballot for:

- The primary or special primary election to be held on _____, 20____.
- The election to be held on _____, 20____.

I, _____, a United States citizen and a qualified and registered elector of the _____ Precinct of the city of _____ or township of _____ in the County of _____ and State of Michigan, apply for an official ballot, or ballots, to be voted by me at the election or elections as requested in this application.

The statutory grounds on which I base my request are (check applicable reason):

- I expect to be absent from the community in which I am registered for the entire time the polls are open on election day.
- I am physically unable to attend the polls without the assistance of another.
- I cannot attend the polls because of the tenets of my religion.
- I have been appointed an election precinct inspector in a precinct other than the precinct where I reside.
- I am 60 years of age or older.
- I cannot attend the polls because I am confined to jail awaiting arraignment or trial.

Send absent voter ballot to me at:

My registered address:

Street Address or R.R. _____

Street Address or R.R. _____

Post Office City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Post Office City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

I CERTIFY THAT I AM A UNITED STATES CITIZEN AND THAT THE STATEMENTS IN THIS ABSENT VOTER BALLOT APPLICATION ARE TRUE

Sign

Here: _____

Signature _____

Date _____

WARNING:

You must be a United States citizen to vote. If you are not a United States citizen, you will not be issued an absent voter ballot. A person making a false statement in this absent voter ballot application is guilty of a misdemeanor. It is a violation of Michigan election law for a person other than those listed in the instructions to return, offer to return, agree to return, or solicit to return your absent voter ballot application to the clerk. An assistant authorized by the clerk who receives absent voter ballot applications at a location other than the clerk's office must have credentials signed by the clerk. Ask to see his or her credentials before entrusting your application with a person claiming to have the clerk's authorization to return your application.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY

TH 25 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library
TOT Time 10:30AM Library
Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library
Final City Manager Interviews 5:30PM City Hall Shown on SCSTV and LIVE streamed on www.scsmi.org

F 26 Classic Film Friday: McLintock! (1963) 1:30 Library
Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library
Final City Manager Interviews 5:30PM City Hall Shown on SCSTV and LIVE streamed on www.scsmi.org

SA 27 60th Miss St. Clair Shores Pageant 6PM South Lake High School Auditorium Tickets \$15

M 29 Session 4 Swim Lessons Begin City Pool
Shorewood Kiwanis & Macomb Chamber Society Concerts 7 PM Walby Park

TU 30 Local History Ctr 1-4PM Library
Summer Reading Club *Terrific Tuesdays* 2PM Library

Sweet Mountain Strings Dulcimer Concert 7PM Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Garden

W 31 **Water Bills for 48082 Mailed**
1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library
TOT Time 10:30AM Library

Conduct Public Accuracy Test for August Primary Election 4 PM City Hall
Michelob Ultra Music On The Lake: The Gia Warner Band 7:30-9:00 PM Veterans Memorial Park

AUGUST

TH 1 Yard Waste & Large Brush Pick Up Service In Effect Until December 13
Odd/Even Watering Ordinance In Effect Until October 1

1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library
TOT Time 10:30AM Library
Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library
Dog Park Com 6:30PM Civic Arena
Cinema Thursday: *Oz the Great and Powerful* (2013) 6:30PM Library
SCS Memorial Parade Com 7PM City Hall
Zoning Board of Appeals 7 PM City Hall
Teen Night at the City Pool 8-10PM

F 2 Classic Film Friday: Gigi (1958) 1:30PM Library

SA 3 **Early Warning Siren Test 1PM (In Good Weather Only)**
Clerk's Office Open to Issue Absentee Ballots 8AM-2PM City Hall

Yardener's Annual Garden Tour Tickets Sold 9AM to 2:30PM Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum
Women's Civic League: Guns 'n' Hoses 2013 Softball Classic 7PM Kyte Monroe Tickets \$5
Library Summer Hours Closed Saturdays Until Sept. 7

M 5 **Deadline to Vote Absentee at City Clerk's Office 4 PM City Hall**
City Council Mtg 7PM City Hall
Shorewood Kiwanis & Macomb Chamber Society Concerts 7 PM Walby Park

TU 6 **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY POLLS OPEN 7AM TO 8 PM**
Local History Ctr 1-4PM Library
Summer Reading Club *Terrific Tuesdays* 2PM Library
Water Resources Brd 7PM City Hall
Historical Com 7PM Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum

W 7 Special Needs Golf Outing Shotgun Start 8AM SCS Golf Club
1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library
TOT Time 10:30AM Library
Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM

Harper Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) 7:15PM City Hall
Michelob Ultra Music On The Lake: Polish Muslims 7:30-9:00 PM Veterans Memorial Park

TH 8 Library Brd 9:30AM Library
1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library
TOT Time 10:30AM Library
Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library
Parks & Rec Com 7PM Civic Arena

F 9 Local History Ctr Open 10AM-Noon 1-4PM Library
Classic Film Friday: *Key Largo* (1948) 1:30PM Library

SA 10 I-94 Expressway Entrance/Exit Cleanup 10AM-Noon Meet in Parking Lot NW Corner of 10 MI Rd & I-94