



Volume #25 • Issue 5

ST. CLAIR SHORES... *Your Hometown!*

October, 2013



**City Manager Phillip A. Ludos**

**The first sixty days...fast paced!**

After an extensive nation-wide search, City Council selected Phillip A. Ludos, former Assistant City Manager of Public Safety for the City of Saginaw, Michigan, to serve as the City's top administrator. Phil took a break from his hectic schedule to give us some insights into his first sixty days as City Manager.

**Q. What were your expectations of St. Clair Shores in the first sixty days of your administration.**

A. I had done a thorough job of researching St. Clair Shores as a municipal government. I looked at the City's finances, the makeup of the City Council as well as what the Council did outside of their roles in government. So my expectations were that I was stepping into an entirely different kind of environment than I had in Saginaw. No discredit to Saginaw, but I believe that our government is more professional and our Council really cares. You never really know about the employees in a municipality until you start working with them. So far, I have found our employees to be dedicated, loyal, hard-working and functioning as a team who really like what they do. In other places, it's not unusual to hear employees say "It's not my job." My perception is that you will not hear that phrase here. This is the impression I had when I started and I doubt it will change in the coming years.

***"We need to start marketing ourselves as a government functioning at the highest efficiency level." ~Phil Ludos***

**Q. What are our strengths and how do you plan to market them?**

A. St. Clair Shores has a very financially stable government. This is definitely a strength. Looking at the State and the country as a whole, there is not a day that goes by that we don't hear about another city on the emergency manager target list. We have a very strong team that serves the fiduciary responsibility to our



**During a recent tour of the Central Fire Station, City Manager Phillip Ludos (center) inspects the City's fire fighting apparatus and listens to a rundown on operations from Battalion Chief Greg Coplai (left) and Driver Engineer Scott Schwabe (right).**

taxpayers very well. We need to market that success. If I am an investor-whether I'm a small business owner or a four-star restaurateur-I want my business located in a place where I feel I am getting the support of the community and the government is functioning at the highest efficiency. At the same time, we need to continue with the programs we already have in place that are revitalizing some of our blighted areas.

**Q. What do you feel you have accomplished in the first sixty days?**

A. I've made some changes organizationally in how Community Development and Inspections (CDI) is working.

One of the things that I kept hearing from a variety of sources was that there were a lot of issues revolving around CDI. However, there were also so many projects on their table, it was overwhelming. I took a look at their organizational chart and responsibilities and gave Director Chris Rayes direction in regards to my expectations. Some day-to-day duties have been reassigned to other departments or other employees in CDI. Chris will now focus on major projects such as the 40th District

Court building project and keep it on target. Yes, we work with AEW, our engineering firm, or Stuckey Vitale, our architect, but the ultimate responsibility still belongs to the City.

**Q. What is your plan of action for the next sixty to ninety days?**

A. I will continue to assess and evaluate operations. My style of management is by "walking around." I need to see how people function their departments. There is a big difference between "walking around" and "micro-managing." Our employees are all capable professionals. My job as City Manager is to take direction from the Council, translate it into objectives for the employees, and refocused everyone on our mission. I am not a believer that you change for change itself. Change needs to be directed and have a purpose.

One of the objectives established by our policymakers is to review our ordinances. There are several outdate ordinances that need revision. We also need to start preparing for budget sessions in January, 2014 and open negotiations with two of our major labor unions. Paramount is the selection of a new Finance Director. Hopefully, we will have this person in-house by mid-December.

**City General Election  
Nov. 5, 2013**

***Bottom Line: You should vote because you can!***

★ On Tuesday, November 5, 2013, voters will elect three City Council members for a four-year term. City Council candidates are Peter Accica, John Burtch, John Caron (i), Peter Rubino (i), Candice Rusie (i), and Erin Stahl (Note: (i) indicates an incumbent).

★ **The City Clerk's Office is open on Saturday, November 2nd from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm for absentee ballot applications. They are also available online at the City's website at [www.scsmi.org](http://www.scsmi.org) or on page 4 of this newsletter.**

★ Sample ballots are on the City's website or you can go to [www.michigan.gov/vote](http://www.michigan.gov/vote) to see where you vote and a sample Ballot.

★ **You can also vote by absentee ballot on Election Eve, Monday, November 4 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm in the City Clerk's Office. As always, you must meet one of the six statutory reasons for voting the absentee ballot. Refer to page 4 of this newsletter for guidelines.**

★ **Polls on November 5 are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Registered voters cast their ballots in the same precinct for all elections - school, city, state, and federal. For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at **447-3303** Mon-Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.



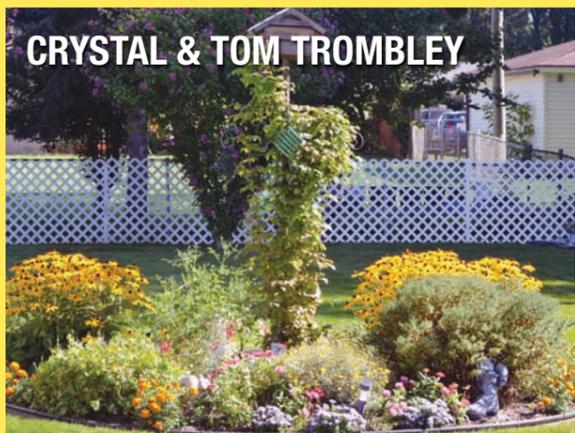
**DEBBIE & MARK MANIACI**



**PEGGY & MICHAEL BUSHOR**



**LAKESHORE LOFTS**



**CRYSTAL & TOM TROMBLEY**



**WOODMASTER KITCHENS**



**NEWPORT BEACH CONDOMINIUMS**

# BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS 2013 RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

EACH YEAR THE CITY RECOGNIZES THE OUTSTANDING EFFORTS MADE BY INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES TO HELP KEEP OUR CITY BEAUTIFUL THROUGH LANDSCAPING AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THEIR PROPERTY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2013 RESIDENTIAL BEAUTIFICATION AWARD WINNERS:

- PEGGY & MICHAEL BUSHOR
- DEBBIE & MARK MANIACI
- CRYSTAL & TOM TROMBLEY

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES WERE ALSO RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND CIVIC PRIDE:

- LAKESHORE LOFTS
- NEWPORT BEACH CONDOMINIUMS
- RED BARON ENTERPRISES, LLC

SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 10-YEAR BUSINESSES FOR MAINTAINING A QUALITY OF EXCELLENCE:

- BAGNASCO & CALCATERRA FUNERAL HOME
- BELLE TIRE, INC.
- WOODMASTER KITCHENS



**BELLE TIRE**



**BAGNASCO & CALCATERRA FUNERAL HOME**



**RED BARON ENTERPRISES, LLC.**

# COUNCIL CONNECTION



Council Member  
Peter A. Rubino

Recently I have had many friends and family members selling their homes in the Shores. The good news is they are all staying right here in the St. Clair Shores. I recall

an owner of a moving company tell me that it seems people who sell in our City tend to stay in our City. I was worried that trend was changing. But it seems that trend is back. The other good news is our home values continue to climb. We may not be back to the highs of the early and mid-2000s, but we are back to more reasonable prices. Why is this? I believe the reasons are obvious. When other cities are cutting services, laying off police and fire and not able to offer services that people expect; they want to move. Yet we have been able to expand services and lower the cost to do so. A great example is that we have been able to add a third ambulance into service. In this case we increased our EMS service and brought more revenue to the General Fund.

We are out-pacing our neighboring cities in real estate values, and our homes are not staying on the market very long. One realtor told me most homes are selling within a month. Another agent bragged about how some listings are gone in a few days! He also credited the tax foreclosure rehabilitation program. He pointed out that when you improve the worst home on the block, the whole street benefits. I agree with him. We have improved neighborhoods and the program has been highly profitable for the City and residents alike.

We still have some issues that we need to take care of though. One issue I believe that is bad for home values is the rodent problem. This is a problem that the City along with the residents needs to tackle fast. I have seen a drastic increase in rat calls. My hope is that Council can get together ASAP and come up with ideas to help tackle this problem. But the City cannot do it themselves. We will need to partner with homeowners to truly eradicate this issue. Taking care of this issue will greatly improve how our City is seen by folks who do not live here. That can only help our values increase more over time.

Since this could very well be my last article I would like to thank all the people of St. Clair Shores for the opportunity to be your Council person for the last 4 years.

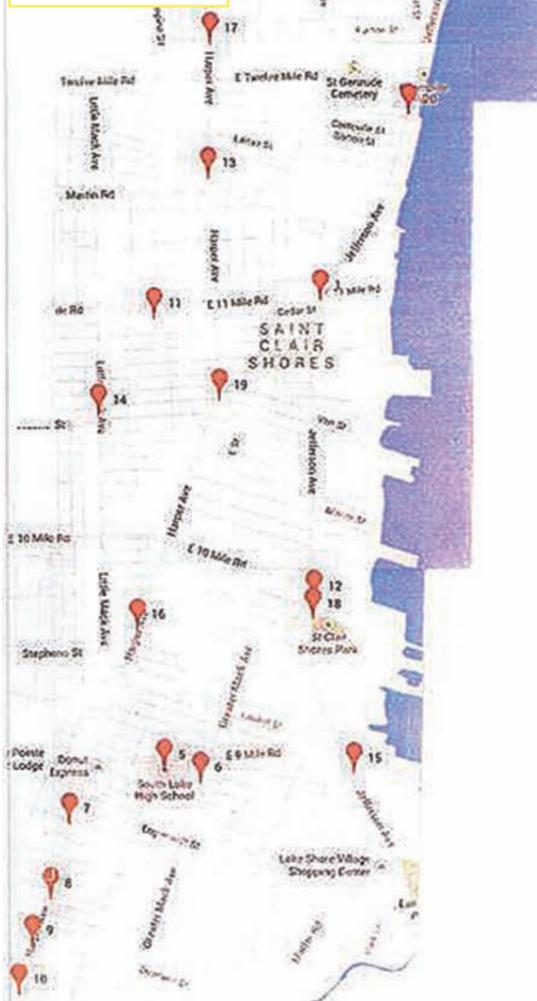
As always feel free to contact me at 586-770-2695 or rubinop@scsmi.net

Cool City Committee...

## Lighthouse Community Art Project Hosts Charity Auction



Lighthouse at City Hall



### LOOK FOR LIGHTHOUSES AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

1. **City Hall (Designed by the Cultural Committee)**
2. **Lake Shore High School**
3. **Veterans Memorial Park (Sponsored by Giles Irrigation)**
4. **Kyte Monroe Park (Sponsored by the Bricklayers Union local #514)**
5. **South Lake High School**
6. **Jan & Jim's Hallmark**
7. **Wally's Frozen Custard**
8. **Gilbert's Hardware**
9. **Bulk Food Marketplace**
10. **National Coney Island**
11. **Lakeview High School**
12. **Mike's on the Water**
13. **Maloof Jewelry & Gifts**
14. **The Lakehouse**
15. **A Pet's Pal/Pawsitive Performance**
16. **First State Bank**
17. **Dr. Philip Badalamenti Orthodontics**
18. **Wahby Park (Sponsored by TIFA)**
19. **St. Clair Shores Central Fire Station (Sponsored by the St. Clair Shores Firefighters Union)**
20. **Lakeshore Lofts**

Before GPS navigation and radios were invented, a lighthouse stood as the destination point for many sailors and captains who were already out on Lake St. Clair with their vessels. They relied on these beacons to warn them away from dangerous rocks and lead their ships and crew safely to shore. Thanks to the efforts of the St. Clair Shores Cool City Committee, lighthouses have a renewed meaning in St. Clair Shores as the Cool City Committee sets sail on the final leg of their Lighthouse Community Art Project. Designed by local artist Dennis Garascia, twenty fifty-two inch tall lighthouses were reproduced, at cost, by the Operative Plasterers Cement Masons International Associations Local 514. The lighthouse design was selected to pay homage to our roots as a lakefront community and to venerate these beacons of safety that guided weary sailors back to their homeport. Each lighthouse included the familiar St. Clair Shores "sailboat" logo at the base of the sculpture as well as a miniature of the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum. "Sold" for \$500 each, they were delivered unfinished to local businesses and civic organizations. Members of schools, organizations and local artists then hand-decorated each lighthouse to reflect the "personality" of the sponsor or highlight themes that are distinctive to our community. For example, members the St. Clair Shores Cultural Committee (see insert picture above) worked countless hours to hand-decorate their lighthouse with a mosaic design using bits of glass, sequins, shells, tiles and clear round marbles that reflect the sunlight. It now sits in front of City Hall on Jefferson Avenue, south of 11 Mile Road. On the other hand, the whimsical "candy" lighthouse in front of the Bulk Food Marketplace on Harper salutes the variety of sweet treats available in their store. For a truly unique experience, use the location map above to take a drive through our City. Stop a few minutes at each lighthouse to appreciate their artistry.

**The lighthouse in front of City Hall as well as the lighthouses in front of South Lake, Lakeview, and Lake Shore high schools and a few of the lighthouses donated by local business will be available to the highest bidder at a special Charity Auction on Saturday, November 9 at Noon at the St. Clair Shores Golf Club, 22185 Masonic Boulevard, west of Harper. Lunch will be provided to the first fifty people. You can own a piece of St. Clair Shores history. The Cool City Committee thanks the St. Clair Shores Cultural Committee, the Lac Sainte Claire Fine Art Fair, the local artist community and the Cement Masons Local 514 for their assistance in making the First Lighthouse Community Art Project a success!**

## Inside Our City



Every summer my wife, Michele, and I have the privilege of filming an episode of *The Mayor's Corner* at the homes of the winners of the City's Beautification Award (see page 2 of the newsletter for photographs of the residential and business winners). Time and time again the winners welcome us into their homes and yards and talk passionately about their landscaping and the improvements they have made over the years. These winners are not professionals; they're like you and me. They're ordinary citizens who love to garden, who love to "play in the dirt" and create something beautiful in their City.



Mayor  
Kip C. Walby

Sponsored by the St. Clair Shores Beautification Commission, the award is intended to inspire other neighbors to improve their homes and landscapes. As life-long residents and winners Crystal and Tom Trombly on Elmira point out, the need to revitalize and enhance their property especially in an older community becomes "contagious." Their neighbors are continually walking the neighborhood, talking with one another about gardening and landscaping; then, going back to their own homes, applying a little "sweat equity" and improving their own property a little bit more. It's a domino effect and exactly what we hoped the Beautification Awards would achieve...a more attractive and livable community.

Another big plus for me is the chance to spend some time with our citizens and share their pride. The stories and the gems hidden in our community never cease to amaze me. Take a drive down to the corner of Ursuline and Valera and you'll see what I mean. In the last eight years, award winners Peggy and Michael Bushor have transformed an ordinary 50s-style ranch into a showplace with a surprise. Two unique sculptures, Eddie and Odie, constructed out of spare parts, welcomes neighbors and visitors to their home. The Bushor's dress them up for the holidays...the Grim Reaper for Halloween and Santa for Christmas. Their house has become the hub of their neighborhood community.

Now if you're reading this and thinking to yourself "I can't possibly make my home look like these winners. I don't know what to do."

Take an example from twenty-five year residents and winners Debbie and Mark Maniaci on Alger. This husband and wife team took an older home and gave it tons of curb appeal with retaining walls and brightly colored perennials. With a little bit of help from our local landscaping and garden centers, Debbie even built a pond with a waterfall and stocked with gold fish for the back yard. All it takes is a vision, patience and the ability to make mistakes. As the Maniaci's will attest the "trial and error" method still yields the best results.

Congratulations to all of our Beautification Award winners. I believe that a well-kept home, neighborhood and business says that the residents take pride in their community. With pride comes value, beauty and a great image of St. Clair Shores!

As always I welcome your comments or concerns, you can contact me by phone at 445-3983 or email at walby@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](http://www.scsmi.net)

**Phillip A. Ludos**  
City Manager

[ludosp@scsmi.net](mailto:ludosp@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
<b>EMERGENCY</b>	<b>911</b>
<b>NON-EMERGENCY</b>	<b>777-6700</b>

For Garbage Complaints:  
Rizzo Environmental Services  
866-772-8900  
[www.rizzoservices.com](http://www.rizzoservices.com)

**City Council Contact Info:**  
**Mayor Kip C. Walby**  
[walby@scsmi.net](mailto:walby@scsmi.net) • 445-3983

**Mayor Pro-Tem Ronald J. Frederick**  
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**Council Member John D. Caron**  
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**Council Member Peter A. Rubino**  
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**Council Member Candice B. Rusie**  
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**Council Member Anthony G. Tiseo**  
[tiseoa@scsmi.net](mailto:tiseoa@scsmi.net) • 634-0777

**Council Member Chris M. Vitale**  
[vitalec@scsmi.net](mailto: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

**City Manager:**  
Phillip A. Ludos

**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 [mary-jane@scsmi.net](mailto:mary-jane@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

### OCTOBER

<p><b>TH 24</b> 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library TOT Time 10:30AM Library Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library Teen Halloween Party 6:30PM Library Genealogy Mtg. 7PM Library</p>	<p><b>SA 2</b> Early Warning Siren Test 1PM (In Good Weather Only) Clerk's Office Open to Issue Absentee Ballots 8AM-2PM City Hall Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM Family Movie Matinee: <i>Mary Poppins</i> 2PM Library</p>	<p><b>SA 9</b> Local History Ctr Open 10AM-Noon 1-4PM Library Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM</p>
<p><b>F 25</b> Classic Film Friday: <i>Jane Eyre</i> (1996) 116 Minutes 1:30 Library Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library</p>	<p><b>SU 3</b> Daylight Savings Time Begins Check Batteries in Smoke &amp; Carbon Monoxide Detectors</p>	<p><b>M 11</b> Veterans' Day <b>ALL CITY &amp; COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED</b> <b>LIBRARY CLOSED</b> <b>40TH DISTRICT COURT COSED</b> <b>REGULAR TRASH SERVICE</b></p>
<p><b>SA 26</b> Lego Block Party 10AM-Noon Library Local History Ctr 10AM-Noon 1-4PM Library Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM Halloween Craft 2-4PM Library</p>	<p><b>M 4</b> Deadline to Vote Absentee at City Clerk's Office 4 PM City Hall City Council Mtg 7PM City Hall Yardeners Mtg 7PM Library</p>	<p><b>TU 12</b> Local History Ctr 1-4PM Library Preschool Storytime 1:30 PM Library Bldg/Property Main 3:30 PM City Hall Planning Com 7PM City Hall Family Storytime 7PM Library Water Resources Brd 7PM City Hall</p>
<p><b>SU 27</b> Halloween Fun Fest 1-5PM Blossom Heath Park \$2 admission</p>	<p><b>TU 5</b> Local History Ctr 1-4PM Library Preschool Storytime 1:30 PM Library Family Storytime 7PM Library</p>	<p><b>W 13</b> 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library TOT Time 10:30AM Library Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM Cultural Com 6PM Library Beautification Com 7PM City Hall</p>
<p><b>TU 29</b> Local History Ctr 1-4PM Library Preschool Storytime 1:30 PM Library Family Storytime 7PM Library</p>	<p><b>W 6</b> 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library TOT Time 10:30AM Library Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM E. Maison Lecture Series: <i>Taking New York by Storm: Lost &amp; Found 1910-2012</i> 7PM Library Harper Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) 7:15PM City Hall</p>	<p><b>TH 14</b> 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library TOT Time 10:30AM Library Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library</p>
<p><b>W 30</b> 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library TOT Time 10:30AM Library Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM Conduct Public Accuracy Test for November General Election 4 PM City Hall</p>	<p><b>TU 7</b> Local History Ctr 1-4PM Library Preschool Storytime 1:30 PM Library Family Storytime 7PM Library</p>	<p><b>SA 16</b> Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum Open 1-4PM Teen Advisory Brd 2PM Library</p>
<p><b>TH 31</b> Halloween 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library TOT Time 10:30AM Library Local History Ctr 5-8:45 PM Library</p>	<p><b>TH 7</b> 1ST Stop for Tots 10AM Library TOT Time 10:30AM Library Local History Ctr 5-8:45PM Library Dog Park Com 6:30PM Civic Arena SCS Memorial Day Parade Com 7PM City Hall Zoning Brd of Appeals 7PM City Hal</p>	

### November

**F 1** Yard Waste & Large Brush Pick Up Service In Effect Until December 13

**NOTE: ALL CITY & COUNTY OFFICES CLOSED ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28 & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29. TRASH SERVICE DELAYED ONE DAY.**