

**Another sunrise,
another
new beginning**
Jonathon Lockwood Huie



INSIDE ST. CLAIR SHORES

RESIDENTS AND CITY FIGHT FLOODING TOGETHER

In the last two years, intense rainfall has plummeted the City causing sewer backups and basement flooding in isolated neighborhoods throughout the City. A combination of improperly installed downspouts, roots and grease in the sewer pipes and extreme rainfall in a short amount of time has led to overburdened lines without the capacity to handle the rain events and prevent water from entering into resident's basements. It's not a resident problem. It's not a City problem. It is our problem. The solution will take the efforts of our residents and the City working together. The following article will explain how our sewer system works, what residents can do to prevent basement flooding during heavy rains and what the City can do to reduce flooding and back-ups.

away from the house as it would if it was sand. It sits on top of the clay. If the water sits too long on the foundation, it will eventually cause structural problems. In order to solve this problem, builders started installing footing drains (Fig 1) to direct the water away from the house. However, footing drains direct water into the sanitary sewer. If your downspout is connected to a footing drain (Fig 2) or if your property or driveway slopes incorrectly (Fig 3), the rain water will drain directly into the sanitary sewer taking up space and reducing capacity.

In Intense rainfalls, the sanitary sewer becomes overloaded and backs-up into your basement drains causing flooding.

HOW DOES OUR SEWER SYSTEM WORK?

Your sewer system has a big job—to carry wastewater away from your home. Most homes in the City have their sanitary lines and storm foundation lines combine when they exit the home and connect to the sanitary sewer main under the street. The sanitary sewer carries wastewater generated inside your house—by activities like bathing, dishwashing, or laundry—to a larger pipe in the street that carries it to a waste treatment plant where the impurities are removed before the water is sent back to the lake (Fig. 1). The storm sewer carries water, rain and melted snow from the street directly into the lake (Fig. 1). In a small number of neighborhoods, the sanitary and sewer systems are combined and all the water is sent to the waste treatment plant.

HOW DOES RAIN WATER GET INTO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM?

In a typical rain storm, the water flows over your roof into the gutters, down the side of your house and into the ground.

Houses built from 1940-1960 face a special problem in the City. Since the land is mostly clay, builders dug a hole and put the house into the middle of a "clay bowl." When water falls into the clay bowl, it does not run



HOW CAN RESIDENTS PREVENT BASEMENT FLOODING?

Home owners have a number of ways to prevent basement flooding. Here are a few recommendations;

- Install a floor drain plug. It's inexpensive and easy to install. Floor plugs help prevent back-ups during extreme weather. They do not allow the drain to function during normal circumstances.
- Install a standpipe. It's also inexpensive and easy to install. It functions as a small drain extension that prevents minor flooding. However, they only protect up to their height, normally less than three feet. **WARNING:** A drain plug or a standpipe could be harmful to the foundation because of hypostatic pressure.
- Install a Backup/Check Valve in the floor drain or in the service pipe that connects your basement to the City sewer. With a check valve, sewer can only flow from the house to the sewer. The valve closes when the sewer backs up. It should be installed inside of the home at each drain line.
- Clean your drains and sewer leads routinely. From soap to food and grease to tree roots, the drain and sewer lines in your home can contain accumulate and create blockages.

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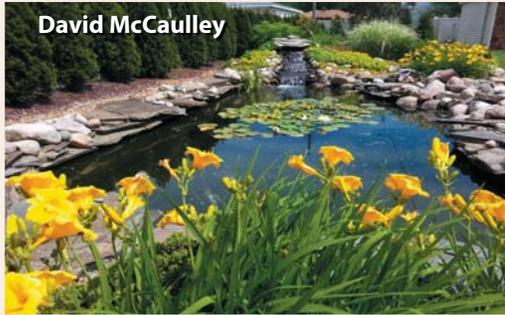
Each year the City recognizes the outstanding efforts made by citizens and businesses to help keep our City beautiful through the use of landscaping and architectural improvements to their property. Fifty percent of the score is based on the home or business building itself and fifty percent is based on the aesthetics and maintenance of the landscape.

2016 Residential Beautification Award winners:

**Robert & Carolyn Michielutti
Anthony Nowak
David McCaulley**



Anthony Nowak



David McCaulley



Robert & Carolyn Michielutti

2016 RESIDENTIAL... BUSINESS... TEN-YEAR BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS



St. John Medical Center

**2016 Business
Beautification
Award winners:**

**St. John Medical
Center
Buffalo Wild Wings
Windwood Pointe
Condo Assoc.**



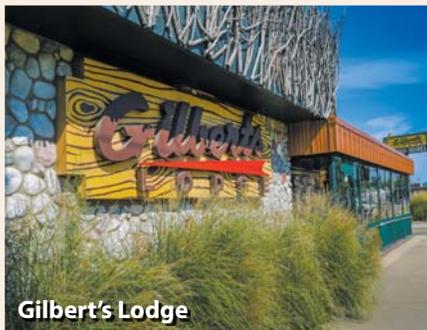
Windwood Pointe Condo Association



Steinberg Associates, D.D.S., P.C.



Buffalo Wild Wings



Gilbert's Lodge

**Ten-Year Award
winners:
Hall's Nursery
Steinberg Assoc.
Gilbert's Lodge**

Photos by Steve Foulkrod



Hall's Nursery

INSIDE OUR CITY



Mayor Kip C. Walby

As we make our way through the fall season, St. Clair Shores is moving our City forward with several important construction projects. Recently Civic Arena cut the ribbon on their new locker rooms, certainly a welcome addition for the residents who utilize the rink. Soon, shovels will go into the ground on the Senior Center for Active Adults expansion, an anticipated project for our senior population. And finally, if you've driven down Jefferson north of 11 Mile Road, you can see the Lakeshore Senior Living (former St. Gertrude site) development being built. I will admit that part of me was saddened when the announcement was made that the St. Gertrude Church was going to be demolished and a new development would take its place.

St. Gertrude Church had been a part of this community for more than 100 years and part of my personal family story as well. My dad graduated from St. Gertrude in the early 1940's. My parents married at the old St. Gertrude building in 1956. My brother and I were baptized there in the 1960's. For over 100 years, St. Gertrude stood in this town as a beacon of faith, family and

community. Hundreds of children took their First Communion there, were confirmed there, and were married there; just like my family. St. Gertrude saw many, many milestones in countless lives over the decades. As a fan of all things historical, I really felt the loss personally.

Having said all that, I recognize that life is cyclical, and things change. And if St. Gertrude was going to be sold for development, which it clearly was, I can't think of a better plan for our community than having Lakeshore Living occupy that spot. Ours is a community with a large population of senior residents, and I am glad that new living options are coming for that important segment of the City. My hope is that the new development will also become a place of community, where the residents can remain in St. Clair Shores, continue to enjoy the amenities available here and maintain their independence.

Before I close this column, I want to talk a little bit about the new bathrooms in Veterans Memorial Park. This endeavor would not have been financially feasible without donations in labor and materials. I personally want to thank Council Member Peter Accia for his work in persuading our local tradesmen to donate their work in the bathroom project as well as the Civic Arena locker rooms. Pete not only helped secure the labor, he was physically involved in doing the work himself. I personally saw him on site numerous times, hard at work. Olympia Dukakis once said: "...most of us talk one way and live another. There are a few people who truly, truly walk the talk." In my opinion, Pete Accia truly "walks the talk." I appreciate his dedication to seeing these projects come to fruition.

As usual your comments and concerns are important to me. Call me at 586-335-8818 or email me at walby@scsmi.net. I will answer your questions or concerns as soon as I possibly can.



TIPS TO MAKE VOTING ON ELECTION DAY EASIER

1. Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, November 8. Peak voting hours where you may experience long lines and delays are first thing in the morning and from 3:00 p.m. until closing at 8:00 p.m.
2. Voters can confirm the location of their precinct AND view a sample ballot at www.mi.gov/vote. Be prepared, know the candidates and be informed about the issues before Election Day.
3. For absentee voters: applications are available on the City's website at <http://www.scsmi.org/DocumentCenter/View/41>. The City Clerk's Office is open on Saturday, November 5 from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. City Hall is located at 27600 Jefferson, just south of 11 Mile Road. You can track your absentee ballot at www.mi.gov/vote. Absentee ballots MUST BE RETURNED to the City Clerk's Office by 8:00 p.m. on November 8. You may return it by U.S. mail, deposit it in the White Drop Box in front of City Hall or at the City Clerk's counter.

COUNCIL CONNECTION



Council Member
Candice B. Rusie

It's always difficult to see summer go, but along with a chill in the air and falling leaves, autumn brings with it much excitement to our City.

The season starts, unofficially at least, when children all over the City, aglow with the anticipation and expectation that a new school year brings, return to their studies. Football games, homecoming parades, and other festivities follow later in the season. This is an exciting time not only for the students themselves, but also for the entire community - particularly those who are proud alumni. Go Shorians (and Cavaliers and Huskies)!

Each year, our residents can look forward to two other longstanding fall traditions. First, it's simply not fall until the smell of cinnamon and baking apples fills our Senior Activities Center! The annual apple pie sale is a popular fundraiser for the Senior Center's lunch program. The pies sell out quickly every year, and this year was no exception. Second, the Lac Ste. Claire Fine Art Fair draws to Veterans Memorial Park art lovers from all over southeastern Michigan and beyond. This annual show is in its 29th year.

Fall also means the start of hockey season. Every October, our SCS Hockey Association hosts opening day ceremonies celebrating the beginning of another fun-filled season for SCSHA players. Later this month will mark the start of the inaugural season of the SCS Fighting Saints, the new professional hockey team that will call our Civic Arena home. We all look forward to rooting for our Fighting Saints!

My favorite holiday happens to be in fall - Halloween! Throughout October, elementary schools and churches hold festivals and "trunk or treats" so that the children can celebrate safely (and often). Our City's Activities Committee also hosts the "Halloween Fun Fest," returning this year to beautiful VMP. Children love having multiple opportunities to collect candy and show off their costumes.

THANK YOU to all the dedicated volunteers who work so hard to make all of this happen!

Finally, on a more serious note, the upcoming presidential election is taking place this fall. Our City Clerk and her staff have been working hard to ensure a smooth and efficient administration of this year's election. Besides the presidential race, there are a number of other offices on the ballot. Make your voice heard, and vote this November. It's one of the most important rights we have as citizens.

You can always contact me at 586-612-3098 or email me at rusie@scsmi.net with your comments.

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 E. Smith
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 • 888-877-4996

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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.

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John D. Caron

Council Members:
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Ronald J. Frederick
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We welcome your comments 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.

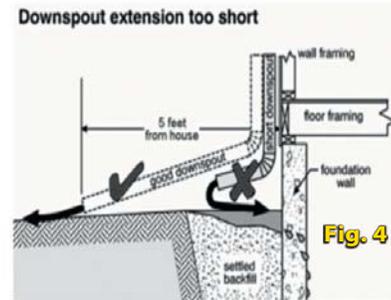


RESIDENTS AND CITY FIGHT FLOODING TOGETHER

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HOW CAN RESIDENTS PREVENT BASEMENT FLOODING?

You can prevent basement flooding for your own property and your neighbors by inspecting your roof downspouts to make sure that they are disconnected from footing drains and installed properly. Downspouts that funnel rainwater from your roof into the sanitary sewers were cited by the South Macomb Sanitary District as one of the contributing factors to flooding and pollution along Lake St. Clair. Downspouts must have extensions (available at all hardware stores) that discharge rainwater on the ground or on a splash block at least five feet away from the basement wall (Fig 4).



No matter what option you select, the main goal is to minimize the amount of rainwater that flows into the sanitary sewer from your house.

HOW CAN THE CITY REDUCE BASEMENT FLOODING?

Based on the intense rainfall in August when over four hundred residents reported flooded basements, City Council authorized an emergency sewer investigation. Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc. (AEW), the City's engineering firm, collected data from as many of the flood reports as possible and studied the sewer cleaning history and current condition of the sewers in areas of the City where flood reports were clustered. Six areas were identified that had concentrations of basement flooding: Area 1—Little Mack to Harper and down 10 mile Road; Area 2—Little Mack, Cubberness, Star Valley; Area 3—Beste, North & South Gaffke; Area 4—Winshall; Area 5—Arrowhead, Lakebreeze, Willow Wisp; Area 6—South of 9 Mile Rd., Avalon, Elizabeth, Harmon, California, and Harper between Gaukler and Alger. AEW presented their findings to City Council at their October 17 meeting.

Overall the City owns about 950,000 feet of sanitary sewer or about 180 miles, 62,000 feet of sewer is included in Areas 1-6 in the current investigation.

The main issues center on the following:

- 1) Not enough sewer capacity for the amount of rainfall during these recent rain events.
- 2) Root intrusion into the sewer main and private sanitary leads (from resident homes to the City's sanitary sewer) (Fig 5)
- 3) Grease build-up in the sewer main: Figure 6 shows it in the sanitary sewer.



Notice that there is very little space available in the pipe for water to flow.



A study of the sanitary sewer cleaning history shows that the sewers in the entire City were cleaned from 2001 to 2012 as part of the Lake St. Clair Clean Water Initiative. As a result of the current investigation, AEW recommended that the City take the following actions to reduce basement back-ups:

- Develop a Citywide sewer cleaning and maintenance program renewed every five years. With over 950,000 feet of sanitary sewers in the City, the estimated cost is over \$3.0 million.
- Develop a localized chemical root control program. The investigation showed that the roots returned to some sewers that had been cleaned completely years ago. The estimated cost is \$550,000 to treat every two years. During the recent investigation any root problem areas found were heavily cleaned to remove the roots.
- Develop and enforce a grease ordinance.
- Investigate a private sewer lead repair and maintenance program. About 27,000 residential sewer lines are connected to the City's main sewer lines. Sewer leads from the house to the main line should be cleaned routinely by residents to eliminate root intrusion and mineral and grease buildup. Figure 7 shows a clean sewer line.



- Increase sewer capacity where feasible. The 10 Mile Sanitary Relief Sewer Project is in the planning stages for the 2017 construction season. The City plans to construct a 21 inch diameter parallel relief sewer from Harper to Little Mack, south of 10 Mile Road. This should provide some relief for Area 1 as well as possibly Area 2.
- Investigate additional sewer capacity for the 8 1/2 Mile Relief Drain, the Northeast Relief Sewer, and the Southeast Macomb Sanitary District Trunk Sewers.
- Restore the Downspout Investigation and Disconnection Program Citywide. Initially completed in 1997 to remove downspouts directly connected to footing drains and sewers, it has been 19 years since the entire City was canvassed.
- Investigate the feasibility of separating combined sanitary and storm sewers where applicable.
- Increase public education of ways to prevent basement backups.

For more information or to address specific concerns, contact the DPW Department at 445-5363.