

# Battle Creek Current



June/July 2016

## City Manager's Corner *with Rebecca Fleury*



I think it's now safe to say summer is right around the corner. These warm, sunny days encourage us to get out and enjoy favorite activities!

The city has many activities and facilities to help you enjoy the summer.

Flash Flood Water Park opened Memorial Day weekend, Binder Park Golf Course is open and as beautiful as ever, Willard Beach is beckoning sunbathers and swimmers, and there are so many recreation programs planned, I can't even begin to list them all. Be sure to visit our website to get all the right dates and times.

We also have a new event coming, and every-

one is invited — Festival Market Square will be the site of our first ever City Fair! Come join us on July 27 for a chance to meet city employees and learn all about what we do! We are excited to meet you and share our stories.

Let me also use this space to give big kudos to all our residents, as you have accepted my recycling challenge—our city's recycling is up 85 tons over the same time last year. Way to go! Keep filling those new recycle bins and reduce our waste for a better tomorrow.

I hope to see many of you out and about this summer! Don't miss any of the fun activities happening every month!

### Join us for the first City of Battle Creek City Fair!

Meet our staff, check out some of our vehicles & learn more about our services in a family-friendly atmosphere, right next to the Battle Creek Farmers Market!

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**Wednesday, July 27**

**Festival Market Square**

corner of McCamly & Jackson streets  
(rain location Kellogg Arena)

**Hope to see you there!**

### City Calendar

For more, visit [www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov) and [www.battlecreekvisitors.org/events](http://www.battlecreekvisitors.org/events).

- **City Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall: June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19, Aug. 9, Aug. 16
- **Civil Service Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: June 27, July 25, Aug. 22
- **Dangerous Buildings**, 1 p.m., City Hall: June 8, July 13, Aug. 10
- **Historic District Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: June 13, July 11, Aug. 8
- **Housing Board of Appeals**, 1 p.m., City Hall: June 15, July 20, Aug. 17
- **Planning Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: June 22, July 27, Aug. 24
- **Planning Commission petition deadline**: July 1, July 29
- **Police/Fire Retirement System Board**, 10 a.m., City Hall: June 20, July 18, Aug. 15
- **Sustainable BC Committee**, 4 p.m., Dept. Public Works: June 1, Aug. 3
- **Transit Local Coordinating Committee**: 1:30 p.m., Dept. Public Works, June 14
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 4 p.m., City Hall: June 14, July 12, Aug. 9
- **Historic District/Zoning Board petition deadline**: June 17, July 15, Aug. 19
- **Chat with Fire Chief Dave Schmaltz**, 4-6 p.m. June 16, Brownstone Coffee House, 18 1/2 W. Michigan Ave. Chat with the chief about a career in fire fighting.
- **Run With the Police 5K** run/walk, 8 a.m., Battle Creek YMCA: June 18
- **Flash Flood Water Park**, normal summer hours start June 13: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, noon to 6 p.m. Open Memorial Day to Labor Day.
- **Yard Waste pickup**: Continues thru Dec. 2. City residents only. Place items at curb on regular pickup day.
- **Household Hazardous Waste collection**: 10 a.m.-noon June 4, Calhoun County building, 315 W. Green St.
- **Photo contest**, Kalamazoo River Watershed, July 1, 2016-July 31, 2017. Cash prizes, adult/student divisions. More at [www.bcwater.org](http://www.bcwater.org).
- **Scrap tire collections**: 9 a.m.-noon June 11, 130 E. Burr Oak Road, Athens. More at [calhouncountyrecycling.com](http://calhouncountyrecycling.com) or 269-969-6341. 9 a.m.-noon June 25, 537 N. Church St., Tekonsha 9 a.m.-3 p.m. July 23, Ketchum Field, 1203 E. North St., Albion
- **City offices CLOSED** for Independence Day, July 4. Transit bus/van services canceled. Waste Management closed; 1-day service delay.
- **City Fair**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. July 27, Festival Market Square, corner of McCamly/Jackson streets. Learn about city services in a fun atmosphere! Rain location: Kellogg Arena
- **Recyclerama**, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Aug. 20, Bailey Park, free recycling for Calhoun County residents. More at [calhouncountyrecycling.com](http://calhouncountyrecycling.com) or 269-969-6341.

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See the online calendar on our website for the most up-to-date meeting/event information!



City Hall

10 N. Division St., Battle Creek, MI 49014

[www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov)

**City Manager**, 269-966-3378  
Fax, 269-966-6654

**City Clerk**, 269-966-3348

**Code Compliance**, 269-966-3387

**Fire Department** administration,  
195 E. Michigan Ave., 269-966-3519

**Police Department**, 20 N. Division  
St., 269-966-3322

**Non-emergency**, 269-781-0911

**Department of Public Works**, 150  
S. Kendall St., 269-966-3343

**Parks & Recreation/Full Blast Fitness Center**, 35 Hamblin Ave., 269-966-3431

**Transit**, 339 W. Michigan Ave., 269-966-3474

**Utility Billing**, 269-966-3366

**W.K. Kellogg Airport**, 15551 S.  
Airport Road, 269-966-3470

### City Commission

Mayor Dave Walters, Ward 5  
269-209-0626

Vice Mayor Susan Baldwin, at-large  
269-963-6901

Deb Owens, Ward 1  
269-420-4031

Lynn Ward Gray, Ward 2  
269-830-2456

Kate Flores, Ward 3  
269-832-2912

Michael Sherzer, Ward 4  
269-420-0384

Mark Behnke, at-large  
269-441-7663

Kaytee Faris, at-large  
734-330-6236

Andy Helmboldt, at-large  
269-660-9659

The Battle Creek Current is compiled & designed by Communications Specialist Jessica VanderKolk: 269-966-3378 / [PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov).

## Connect with us!

[City of Battle Creek, Michigan](https://www.facebook.com/CityofBattleCreekMichigan)

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[City of Battle Creek](https://www.nextdoor.com/City-of-Battle-Creek)  
[Battle Creek Police Department](https://www.nextdoor.com/Battle-Creek-Police-Department)

[PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov)  
See our website for a full staff directory.

Learn more about city departments and services on Commissioner Lynn Ward Gray's AccessVision TV show, *Keeping You Informed*. It appears on Channels 17 and 917 at 6 p.m. Wednesdays and online, [accessvision.tv](http://accessvision.tv).

**June:** [Fire Department application/testing period](#)  
**July:** What not to flush into the sewer system

## Recycling tips, housekeeping

Now that our new recycling program is well under way, we have some tips and house-keeping items to share.

Thanks for the continued questions and dialogue; you all are helping make this program a great success—and we've got the numbers to prove it!

Our friends at Waste Management have shared that, as of late May, the City of Battle Creek has **80 percent participation** in recycling.

Also, comparing the first three weeks of May this year and last year, you're recycling **85 TONS more** than at this time in 2015. WM even had to add an extra recycling truck to the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday routes.

Way to go!! Thank you for participating and please keep up the great, great work!



See much more information, including what to recycle, at [www.battlecreekmi.gov/recycling](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov/recycling).

### Recycling cart placement

When you place your recycling cart at the curb, please pull it as close to the edge as possible. Keep space between the cart and other objects, like your trash and yard waste bins or your mail box. Make sure the handles face your house. All of this is to allow the automated trucks to service these carts.

### Blowing items during service

To help avoid items blowing out of the cart/truck during pickup, try containing loose items in paper bags before placing everything

in the large cart. Small boxes also work for this purpose.

### Getting items to the cart

There are several ways to collect your items in your home without running outside to your cart every time.

\*Try placing a paper bag or small box in a designated area in your kitchen, on a back porch or stoop, or other easily accessible location.  
\*Purchase an extra trash container designated to collect your recycling before placing it all in your big cart.

**Have other questions?** Check out the website or give us a call. Call Waste Management Customer Service, 866-797-9018 or Tiffany Welsh, the city environmental programs coordinator, 269-966-0712.

We welcome your continued feedback on this program! Send to [PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov).

## (To Flush or) Not to Flush

The toilets in our homes are designed to accept water, human waste, toilet paper—and nothing else!

Other items labeled as “flushable” do not disintegrate when flushed down the

toilet and into our sewer system. They can plug up house drains, service lines, sewer mains, pumps and treatment facilities. This can cause backups that are unpleasant and expensive to deal with.



### Please DON'T flush:

Medications/vitamins  
Hypodermic needles  
Cloth, rags, towels  
Dental floss  
Feminine products  
Chemicals/solvents  
Grease

Baby wipes  
Fats, cooking oil  
Condoms  
Diapers  
Plastic bags & bottles  
Cigar tips/cigarette butts  
Paper towels

Try keeping a trash can in the bathroom and a can or container for grease in the kitchen.

See more on this at our website under [Get Connected. City Information Sheets](#).