



# BC City Connection

February 2017

## City Manager's Corner with Rebecca Fleury



Happy new year to all of you! While the start of 2017 has been tough, with several difficult announcements from our local businesses, there is still much to be excited about! We ask you all to **Believe in Battle Creek!**

Our people make our community great. All of you are our champions and will help us build on the many successes we have. We still have employers adding jobs and looking for great talent; we still have businesses investing and expanding in Battle Creek; our downtown is ready to pop with new development; we have so many calls coming in about the Beckley Road area we can't keep up; and BC Vision continues to see great work and progress toward our community goals.

Please keep the positive thoughts and energy coming and get involved in your city! Our community is truly amazing. We ask for input and we get it.

A big thank you to all who submitted suggestions for a new name for this newsletter. We were blown away by the response, and I know you're going to love the new name. It's just another representation of our **connection** to you, our citizens. A big thank you, too, to resident Genie Hamilton, whose suggestion contributed to the new name and earned the \$25 gift card of choice. Way to go, Genie!

Have you noticed fewer train horns lately? Our Quiet Zone is finally in place, effective Dec. 28. This does not mean that trains will never sound their horns, but train horns will be greatly reduced.

Let me close by wishing you all a healthy and happy new year. Together, we will make great things happen.



**Believe in Battle Creek!**

### City Calendar

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

- **Board of Appeals**, 1 p.m., City Hall: March 15, April 19
- **City Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall: March 7, March 21, April 11 (due to spring break), April 18
- **Civil Service Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 27, April 24
- **Dangerous Buildings**, 1 p.m., City Hall: March 8, April 12
- **Historic District Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 13, April 10
- Historic District **petition deadline**: March 24, April 21
- **Human Relations Board**, 3:30 p.m., City Hall: March 15, April 19
- **Planning Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 22, April 26
- Planning Commission **petition deadline**: March 31, April 28
- **Police/Fire Retirement System Board**, 10 a.m., City Hall: March 20, April 17
- **Sustainable BC Committee**, 4 p.m., Dept. Public Works: March 1, April 5
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 14, April 11
- Zoning Board **petition deadline**: March 17, April 13
- **Yard waste curbside pickup**: March 27-Dec. 1. City residents only on your regular trash day; place waste in paper bags for this purpose or clearly-marked containers.
- **Photo contest**, Kalamazoo River Watershed, now through July 31, 2017. Cash prizes, adult/student divisions. More at [www.bcwater.org](http://www.bcwater.org).
- **Recyclerama**: April 1, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Bailey Park, 1392 Capital Ave. NE (enter using Wagner Drive); watch for more info.
- City offices **CLOSED** for Good Friday: April 14. Transit bus/van services & Waste Management will operate on normal schedules.

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

### Newsletter renamed!

Thanks to everyone who voted and submitted ideas for the new name of our newsletter — we received 60 votes and suggestions! We appreciate that you took the time to contribute to this newsletter, created to inform you!

“City Connection” received the most votes, with several similar suggestions submitted. Two people submitted the idea “BC Connection,” and we decided to combine the two, so you know when you see this newsletter that it's from your city government.

Big thanks to Genie Hamilton, who was drawn to receive the \$25 gift card of choice!

### Have you tried a Full Blast Fitness Center membership??

\*For \$20 per month, use the fitness center, walking track, courts and locker rooms. Ages 14 and up, please.

\*A 12-month membership is \$185, with a spouse membership for \$140. For three or more family members, it's \$95 per additional person.

\*A day pass is \$5 and a Walk & Play membership is \$15 per month for use of the walking track, courts and locker rooms (ages 3 and up).

\*Join us 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

35 Hamblin Ave. / 269-966-3667



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 Fit-  
ness 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 Manager Jessica VanderKolk: 269-966-3378 / [PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov).

# Connect with us!

City of Battle Creek, Michigan

@BattleCreekCity

City of Battle Creek  
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).

**February:** State of the City replay  
**March:** Calhoun County Lead Task Force



**HIGH FIVE FOR RECYCLING** —

Battle Creek residents are making a difference, with a 46 percent increase in curbside recycling in 2016, following the distribution of the new large, green recycling carts.

As part of the city's new contract with hauler Waste Management, every city resident in April 2016 received a 96-gallon

cart, specifically for recycling. The large container, with lid, was chosen to keep materials contained and dry, and eliminate blowing litter in streets and yards.

Waste Management records show that, from May to October last year, residents recycled 431 tons more than during the same time in 2015. That's nearly **1 million pounds!**

Thank you for your efforts and success to recycle more, helping our ongoing efforts to be a sustainable city. Keep up the great work!

**NEW EZ TAX FORM** — For those filing 2016 income

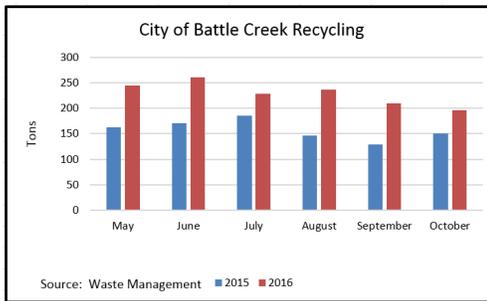
tax returns, the city now offers a form BC-1040EZ.

This form is for resident and non-resident City of Battle Creek taxpayers who have W-2 income, interest/dividends, alimony received or paid, taxable IRA/pensions, and IRA deductions.

The new form is only available online. Paper copies of form BC-1040 are available at the Income Tax Office at City Hall, 10 N. Division St.

Electronic filing and forms are on our website, [www.battlecreekmi.gov](http://www.battlecreekmi.gov). Under the Your Government tab, navigate to Income Tax.

Contact Income Tax staff with questions, at 269-966-3345 or [lwright@battlecreekmi.gov](mailto:lwright@battlecreekmi.gov).



## All about your NPCs

From October 2016 to May 2017 we will feature every Neighborhood Planning Council, sharing with you information about each, and how to get involved in your neighborhood.

Please enjoy and [visit our website](#) and social media for much more information!

**February NPC 5—Urbandale**

This group meets at 7 p.m. every second Monday of the month, at Christ United Methodist Church, 65 N. Bedford Road.

NPC 5 is in the far northern area of the city and includes Fell Park, LaMora Elementary,



Leila Arboretum, the West Michigan and Bedford Road business corridors, and more!

Approximate boundaries are Morgan Road to the north, Waubascon Road to the east, the City of Springfield border to the south, and Stringham Road, Mason/LaMora avenues to the west.

**March NPC 9—Rural Southwest**

This NPC meets at 7 p.m. eve-

ry second Tuesday of the month at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 1079 Riverside Drive.

Special locations include the Woodland Park, Cedar Creek Golf Club, pretty rural biking south of Beckley Road, sections of the Linear Park path, the Beckley Road business corridor, and more.

Approximate boundaries are Gethings Road and I-94 to the north, just beyond M-66 to the

east, Division Drive to the south, and County Line Road and West Columbia Avenue to the west.

