



BC City Connection

Bi-monthly newsletter for the Battle Creek community

City Manager's Corner with Rebecca Fleury



Happy New Year to all of our friends and neighbors! Welcome to 2018! I hope the year is off to a great start for all of you; I believe 2018 is going to be a banner year for the City of Battle Creek!

One of the city's focus areas right now is safety. It is important that we do all we can to keep both our residents and our staff safe as they go about their days.

All of our departments have participated in safety reviews, and are implementing processes and procedures to better ensure safety.

Some of these measures include limiting access to office areas, communication plans, updated building maps for emergencies — you'll see these posted on the walls, additional security cameras, and more.

If you haven't visited City Hall yet this year, you'll notice a couple of changes. We now have two security guards working in the building Monday through Friday, stationed in the first-floor elevator lobby. They monitor activities in

the building, and assist customers as needed. If you have a question about where you need to go in the building, please feel free to ask one of these capable ladies.

We also have designated our center stairwell for public use, so we ask that you please use these stairs when you visit us, and have a meeting or other business on our upper floors. You'll see yellow gates on the side stairs, as in the photo here.

I wish you all a safe and happy 2018!



City Calendar

For more, visit www.battlecreekmi.gov and www.battlecreekvisitors.org/events.

- **Board of Appeals**, 1 p.m., City Hall: TBD — typically third Wednesday
- **City Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall: March 6, March 20, April 10 (due to spring break), April 17
- **Civil Service Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 26, April 23
- **Dangerous Buildings**, 1 p.m., City Hall: TBD — typically second Wednesday
- **Historic District Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 12, April 9
- Historic District **petition deadline**: March 23, April 27
- **Human Relations Board**, 3:30 p.m., City Hall: March 21, April 18
- **Planning Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 28, April 25
- Planning Commission **petition deadline**: March 29, April 27
- **Police/Fire Retirement System Board**, 10 a.m., City Hall: March 13 (rescheduled from March 19), April 16
- **Sustainable BC Committee**, 4 p.m., Dept. Public Works: TBD — typically first Wednesday, but may change in 2018
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 4 p.m., City Hall: March 13, April 10
- Zoning Board **petition deadline**: March 16, April 13
- City offices **CLOSED** for Good Friday: March 30. Transit bus/van services & Waste Management will run on regular weekday schedules.
- **Yard waste curbside pickup** for those within city limits, March 26-Nov. 30. Place in specially marked containers and/or paper yard waste bags. 50-lb limit each.
- **Recyclerama**, April 7, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Bailey Park, 1392 Capital Ave. NE. Enter from Wagner Drive. Accepting appliances, electronics, Styrofoam #6, household hazardous waste, medications, eyeglasses. For more info, calhouncountyrecycling.com or 269-969-6395.

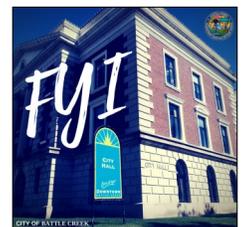
View our 2017 story map!

Pull up a cozy chair, a snack, and your favorite electronic device, and check out our 2017 story — an online, interactive presentation of the top projects the City of Battle Creek accomplished last year.

We've used text, photos, videos, and interactive maps to tell the city's story. It's an annual report in a unique way.

Sometimes pages-long reports are necessary, but we hope this format offers a fun, easy way to learn more about our services, programs, and projects.

To see the story map, head to our website, battlecreekmi.gov. Scroll down the home page to City Spotlight, and click [LEARN MORE](#) on the middle item. Feedback is always welcome at PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov.





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

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
- 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 2017-2020

- Mayor Mark Behnke, at-large
269-441-7663
- Vice Mayor Dave Walters, Ward 5
269-209-0626
- John Griffin, Ward 1
269-358-4756
- Lynn Ward Gray, Ward 2
269-830-2456
- Kate Flores, Ward 3
269-832-2912
- Christopher Simmons, Ward 4
269-274-8993
- Susan Baldwin, at-large
269-963-6901
- Kaytee Faris, at-large
734-330-6236
- Sherry Sofia, at-large
269-967-8272

The BC City Connection is compiled & designed by Communications Manager Jessica VanderKolk: 269-966-3378 / PublicInput@battlecreekmi.gov.

Connect with us!

City of Battle Creek, Michigan

@BattleCreekCity

City of Battle Creek
Battle Creek Police Department

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.

February: State of the Community replay
March: TBA

Spotlight on: Snowfications

The city offers weekly tips and reminders during the winter season — Snowfications — on our Facebook, Twitter, and Nextdoor social media feeds.

We present some of them here as reminders, and for those not on social media.

If you have questions about snow operations, please call Field Services at 269-966-3507. Related to sidewalk enforcement, please call Code Compliance at 269-966-3387.



We hope you enjoy a safe winter season. The countdown to spring is on!

*Property owners are responsible for **clearing sidewalks** of snow and ice following weather events with accumulations. This is particularly important around schools and Battle Creek Transit routes.

By city ordinance, the owner, occupant, tenant, or lessee of the property adjacent to or abutting a sidewalk must clear it by noon after overnight snow, and by noon the day following daytime snowfall or drifting.

Code officers carry general notifications about this, and distribute them as necessary. While they will write citations for failure to follow the ordinance, we prefer the

notification route first. Many neighbors use sidewalks going to and from their daily activities, so we appreciate everyone's help.

***Plowing snow back** into cleared driveways is inevitable. The snow has to go somewhere, and we're sorry for the inconvenience this causes. However, you can help minimize this by clearing a space to the right of your driveway, as you face your house. This gives the snow a place to go before it's plowed into your driveway.

*If you believe a snow **plow damaged your mailbox**, and it was in previously good condition, please call Field Services for replacement options, 269-966-3507.

We replace them on a case-by-case basis, either with a two-piece, plastic mailbox, or by mailing a \$65 check to re-purchase one of your choosing.

*The city does not have residential parking rules, unless we are in a snow emergency. On a normal, snowy day, if you see a plow pass by, please **consider moving your vehicle off the street**, so

crews can access and clear the entire street.

During a snow emergency, parking is prohibited on all city streets so plows have complete access. During that time, vehicles can be towed.

*For the convenience of your mail and newspaper carriers, please keep the areas around your **mailbox and paper box** clear. The U.S. Postal Service may not deliver your mail if carriers cannot access your mailbox.

If you have a **fire hydrant** on your property, please help our fire fighters by clearing the snow from around it. This gives the Fire Department quicker access, should they need it. Thank you for your help with this!

*For this 2017-2018 year, our **snow operations budget** is \$1.8 million. Local taxes do not fund snow plowing; our funds come from state Public Act 51, which

comes from gas and weight taxes.

Overall, budgets are flat or less, while we face increased expenses for fuel, equipment, and salt.



We ordered 6,000 tons of salt this year, at \$42.81 per ton, for nearly \$257,000. We took delivery of 1,000 tons first, then receive additional deliveries as needed. We look at trends of our previous salt needs, and try not to order too much, keeping in mind that we also don't want to run out.