



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

October 2023

Baldwin Public Library

Library Board

The Library Board will meet on October 16, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. for its regular meeting. Board meetings are held in the second floor Board Room. The next board meeting will be held on Monday, November 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Staff Development Training

Baldwin was closed on Friday, September 22 for staff development training. During the day, 55 staff members attended a variety of learning sessions on different topics, including: Introduction to Restorative Practices in Libraries with Stephen Jackson, Ask a Social Worker with Hillary Nusbaum of the BPD, Library Trends with Rebekah Craft, Book Bike training, copier and printing training, general maintenance refresher, Virtual Reality headset practice, readers advisory training, and departmental meetings.

Phase 3 Construction of the Library's Front Entrance

Follow along with the library's construction project at www.baldwinlib.org/renovation. The October 2023 renovation report is now available online.

Library Tour

If you'd like to learn even more about the library, join Associate Director Jaclyn Miller for a Behind the Scenes Tour. You'll visit staff areas, learn how items are added to the collection, and hear about new programs and services. The next tour will meet in the Library's Claudia Ireland room on Wednesday, October 25 at 4:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events of Interest

UFOs Over Michigan

Monday, October 23, at 7:00 p.m.

Did you know that Michigan has some of the biggest UFO cases on record? The 1966 sightings over Southeast Michigan and 1994 sightings over Grand Rapids each had literally hundreds of eyewitnesses, including law enforcement and radar returns. Find out more about these incredible events as well as several other unusual and well-documented UFO sightings from the Great Lakes State. This program is presented by Bill Konkolesky, State Director for the Michigan Chapter of the Mutual UFO Network (2004-present).

Speaking with the Dead: What Bones Can Tell Us About Life in the Past

Saturday, November 4 at 3:00 p.m.

Dead men tell no tales - unless of course they are being looked at by an archaeologist! Then they often can tell quite a few tales, from where they grew up to what they ate to how old they were when they

died. Join archaeologist Ellen Green to see how skeletons can help us build biographies of the people they once were, and how that helps us understand past civilizations. Learn how the latest forensic and medical knowledge can be applied to people who died thousands of years ago in order to create a window into their lives and their deaths. This presentation will include pictures of (archeological) human remains. This is a virtual event. Registration is required.

Parenting Strategy Sessions: Behavioral Support with Littles

Thursday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m.

Jessica Cortez, LMSW, founder of Bloomfield Child and Family Counseling, and her staff will discuss different parenting topics along with concrete strategies and insights for parents. This is a hybrid event. Everyone who registers will receive the Zoom link and you may choose to attend in person or via Zoom.

The Birmingham Museum

Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month in the U.S., and the Birmingham Museum will be celebrating our local Indigenous heritage by spotlighting a recent donation of traditional Great Lakes tribal basketry. The peoples of the Great Lakes, also known as the *Anishnaabeg*, include the culturally related Odawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi tribes who occupied Oakland County and southeast Michigan before European settlement. Their basketry work used locally available materials in traditional ways, but the techniques and artistry were often unique and personal. In recent months, the museum has received a generous donation of *Anishnaabeg* baskets that reflect varying tribal traditions in the use of split ash, birch bark, sweet grass, decorative vegetable dyes, and quillwork design. The baskets, while not antique, are historically important and provide a look at Michigan's Indigenous people through their expression of the craft of basketry and their connection to the land and their long traditions. The museum is planning a physical exhibit of the baskets in the future, but for November, will be creating a virtual exhibit that can be accessed at www.bhamgov.org/indigenous.

Birmingham Shopping District (BSD)

Events

Art Walk

The second annual Art Walk took place on October 12 in Downtown Birmingham from 5-8 p.m. with support from the Public Arts Board. Over 20 merchants participated this year by featuring local artists. Entertainment was provided along the event route.

Holidays

Before you know it, the holidays will be here! The BSD will be hosting its Winter Markt, Small Business Saturday promotions, Santa Walk, Santa House and Carriage Ride activities again this year. New this year is Thursday Late Night Shopping until 8 p.m. with participating merchants, as well as a trolley for families to ride and to encourage shoppers to visit all ends of the downtown.

The BSD also recently supported \$2,500 toward the The Great Decorate, a non-profit holiday decorating competition in Downtown Birmingham amongst local businesses. Funds raised go to the Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange to help teens who have aged out of the foster care system with getting a fresh start on their own. Two businesses have a chance to win the decorating competition of \$5,000 grants. Last year, the event raised \$58,351, had 43 participating merchants and helped 20 teens.

New Winter Event in the Works

The BSD Board recently approved moving forward with a new community event on January 27 to draw both a regional and local audience to Downtown Birmingham to activate the area during mid-winter and encourage shoppers to take advantage of winter sales. It will feature a zip line, food trucks, marshmallow roasting, warming tent and hot cocoa stations. This event will be coming before the City Commission in November for approval, as well as a budget amendment to coincide with the event.

Business Development

Business Recruitment

A business recruitment strategy is being finalized for presentation at the Property Owner and Broker Round Table meeting (see below). The strategy will be made available online, as well as some of the key findings of the community usage survey and business mix analysis.

Property Owner & Broker Round Table

The BSD will host a property owner and broker round table on October 19 from 3-5 p.m. at Boji Group offices above CB2. The round table discussion will include a presentation on the business mix analysis, recruitment strategy, and an overview of business and development processes with the City.

Business Anniversaries

The Birmingham Shopping District recognizes and celebrates long-standing businesses with the Business Anniversary Recognition Program. [View a list](#) of businesses celebrating 10 years or more within the district. Recently the Board recognized SEE Eyewear which started here in Birmingham 25 years ago and has grown nationally with over 40 locations, as well as Todd's Room for 25 years in business and an amazing team that has made their success possible.

Maintenance & Capital Improvements

Holiday Décor

The DPS has begun installing the holiday lights around the downtown, and the BSD is revamping the design of the planters and exploring new elements for Booth Park and North Old Woodward in future years. New this year will be lights along South Old Woodward now that the streetscape is complete.

Marketing & Advertising

Brand Extension

The BSD is developing new logos and brand elements for its signature events and seasonal campaigns to complement the new City and BSD brands. Expect to see the holidays with a fresh new look this year!

Video Features

Also in the beginning stages of development are new downtown videos geared at business recruitment and tourism. The BSD will be taking a deeper dive into the amazing assets of the community and business industries, creating unique stories about Downtown Birmingham.

Holiday Marketing

Marketing plans for the holidays are being wrapped up and completed over the next month, including the Holiday Gift Guide, digital marketing and promotions. A merchant meeting was held last week at the Daxton Hotel, garnering great attendance and interest into the plans for the

holidays. Two areas of concern were discussed at that time, including ease of parking for customers along Maple between Woodward and Old Woodward, as well as a review of the future landscaping plans shifting from annuals to perennials for sustainability purposes.

Organization

Grant Funding

Unfortunately, the City of Birmingham was not awarded the RAP 2.0 grant from the MEDC for the Pierce Street VIA, however, we were not alone. Only one community in Oakland County (Auburn Hills) received funding out of the \$100 million appropriated to address the COVID-19 impacts and community revitalization needs in Michigan communities. These funds were intended to invest in projects that enable population and tax revenue growth through rehabilitation of vacant and blighted buildings and historic structures, rehabilitation and development of vacant properties, and development of permanent place-based infrastructure associated with social zones and traditional downtowns, outdoor dining, and place-based public spaces.

Advisory Committees

A new Tourism Advisory Committee was appointed by the BSD Board at its October meeting, focused on developing collaborations and a strategy for tourism marketing. This committee will provide recommendations to the Board and Committees of the BSD to strengthen the downtown's tourism economy. The committee will meet monthly beginning in November for the next few months, and then quarterly thereafter. The BSD also plans to hold focus group meetings with restaurateurs and North Old Woodward businesses to better understand their needs and inform our strategies moving forward.

Volunteers Needed

The BSD hosts a number of events throughout the year in which volunteers are needed. This is a great opportunity to network with businesses and the community, as well as a great cause – supporting Birmingham! Volunteers are currently needed for the following events:

- Santa House - call for non-profit organizations to volunteer and raise funds! Every weekend in December up until Christmas.
- Winter Markt - December 1-3

Volunteer duties include event set-up, tear-down, information booth, check-in and monitoring kids activities. Please contact Jaimi Brook at jbrook@bhamgov.org for more information.

BSD Fall Calendar of Events

Birmingham Farmers Market	Every Sunday now until Oct. 29 at Lot 6
Art Walk	October 12
Property Owner & Broker Round Table	October 19
Santa Walk & Small Business Saturday	November 25
Winter Markt	December 1-3
Late Night Thursday Shopping	November 30 and December 7, 14 and 21

2023 Dashboard Metrics

Retail Occupancy Rate - 99% (out of 1.5 million sq.ft.)
Office Occupancy - 89% (out of 2 million sq.ft.)
13 New Business Openings in 2023 (11 more in process)

75/25% Local vs. National Mix

Commercial, Mixed-Use & Residential Development Projects In Construction/Planning - 12 projects totaling 827,727 sq. ft.

31 Active Volunteers (Board and Committee members)

Building Department

Board of Zoning Appeals

There were five cases on the Board of Zoning Appeals September 12, 2023 agenda. The following is a brief description of each request along with the result of the appeal.

1. 680 Fairfax: A 9.71 percent variance from the minimum 40% required open space to remove and replace an existing pool deck. After a brief discussion, the appellant requested the appeal be postponed to allow him to clarify the impervious percentages on the site plan. The BZA moved 6/0 to postpone the case until the October 10, 2023 regular meeting.
2. 1340 Puritan: Requesting a 1.20-foot variance from the minimum total combined side yard setbacks to construct a second floor addition on an existing nonconforming home. The request was approved 6/0 with the condition that the second floor cantilever be removed.
3. 1450 Bird: Requesting a 1.00 percent variance from the maximum lot coverage requirement and a 1.00 foot variance from the maximum height regulation to reconstruct an existing detached garage that was damaged by fire. The BZA approved the lot coverage request 6/0. The board 6/0 denied the request for additional height.
4. 2649 Yorkshire: Requesting a 2.75-foot variance from the minimum distance between houses to construct an addition to an existing nonconforming home. The BZA approved the request 6/0 with the condition that staff verify the variance amount is consistent along the entire length of the neighbor's house.
5. 220 Park: A variance to remove one directly accessible storefront from the public sidewalk facing Hamilton Row. The existing accessible storefront entrances on Park Street and Woodward Avenue would remain. The BZA approved the appeal with the condition that the access be reinstalled in the future if the use of the space changes from office to retail.

Online Permit Applications

In the month of September, we processed 365 permits online bringing this year's total permits processed electronically to 3,449.

Monthly Report

The [Building Department's monthly report](#) provides an update on the following construction activity: building permits issued, building inspections conducted, trades permits issued and trades inspections conducted.

City Clerk's Office

Early Voting Update

All registered voters in the City of Birmingham will receive a postcard notice pictured below in your mailbox soon!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

With the passage of Proposal 22-2, voters now have the right to vote in-person at an early voting site prior to Election Day.

YOUR EARLY VOTING SITE OPTIONS

Regional Early Voting Site #10

Bloomfield Township Public Library
 1099 Lone Pine Rd.
 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Central Early Voting Site #19

Waterford Oaks Activity Center
 2800 Watkins Lake Rd.
 Waterford, MI 48328

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

DAYS - Early voting is open nine (9) consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday before the election and ending on the Sunday before the election.

TIME - Early voting is 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Thursday when hours are noon to 8:00 p.m.

QUESTIONS?

Contact your local clerk's office with any questions.
City of Birmingham Clerk's Office
 (248) 530-1880



Early Voting Dates:

Saturday	10/28	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	10/29	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday	10/30	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday	10/31	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	11/1	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Thursday	11/2	12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Friday	11/3	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	11/4	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	11/5	8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Early Voting Locations:

- Waterford Oaks Activities Center, 2800 Watkins Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328
- Bloomfield Township Public Library, 1099 Lone Pine Rd. Bloomfield Township, MI 48302

Early voting will look and feel just like voting on Election Day. The voter will fill out an application to vote, be checked into the poll book, receive a ballot, mark their ballot, and run their ballot through a tabulator just like voting in person on Election Day.

Early Voting is a component of proposal 2022-2 and includes a Constitutional right to no less than 9 days of early voting in each Statewide and Federal election (even year election) for no less than 8 hours per day. Although the upcoming November 7, 2023 election is not a Statewide or Federal election, Oakland

County Elections Division, the City of Birmingham, Bloomfield Township and Southfield Township plan to work together to pilot and offer early voting at the Bloomfield Township Library. Oakland County is also providing a county-wide early voting location at Waterford Oaks.

For more information on early voting, visit bhamgov.org/vote.

Voter Registration Deadlines

Check your voter registration status online at mi.gov/vote.

Until - Oct 23th 15 days before the Election	Oct 24th - Nov 7th During the 2 weeks before the Election.	On Election Day Nov 7, 2023
Register at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any Secretary of State branch office • Your township, city or county clerk’s office • A designated state agency • By mail 	Register: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person with your township or city clerk 	Register and vote: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In person with your township or city clerk, <u>not</u> at a precinct. <p>Voters who register on Election Day get a ballot and can vote that day.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; background-color: #fff9e6;"> <p>Residency verification required.</p> <p><i>Acceptable documents include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver’s license • State ID card • Current utility bill • Bank statement • Paycheck • Government check • Other government document <p><i>Documents must have name and current address.</i></p> <p><i>Digital copies are acceptable.</i></p> </div>		

Calling All Election Inspectors!

The City Clerk’s Office is taking applications for Election Inspectors. The November 7, 2023 election will be a great learning opportunity for all elections inspectors of all levels of experience as we head into the 2024 Election Cycle.

Becoming an election inspector is a valuable opportunity to actively support our democratic process. As an election inspector, you play an essential role in ensuring fair and transparent elections, while safeguarding the rights of your fellow citizens. With training and experience, election inspectors build a deeper understanding of the election process and all of the safety and security measures in place to ensure that elections continue to be conducted with accuracy and efficiency in a safe manner.

Below is the link for signing up as an election inspector for the November 7, 2023 election. All the training classes are included along with placement requests and the additional information the Clerk’s Office will need. There have been some updates to the form so please take your time to fill everything out completely.

Fill out this form: <https://forms.gle/qeFcieg4QZwUeNez8>

Please email elections@bhamgov.org with any questions you may have.

Keep in mind the following dates for 2024

- Presidential Primary February 27 (most likely) but could be on March 12 depending on when pending legislation takes effect
- State Primary - August 6
- General Election - November 5

General Election on November 7, 2023

Birmingham will hold a general election on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. At this time, the ballot will include four Birmingham Commissioner seats and three Birmingham Library Board positions, all for four-year terms. Information regarding the senior millage is available on the City's website at www.bhamgov.org/seniormillage.

Information regarding the Ordinance Amending Prohibition of Marihuana Sales is available on the City's website at www.bhamgov.org/cannabis.

What is on the ballot?

Candidate Section

Birmingham Commissioner (Vote for not more than 4, 4 Year Term)

- Clinton Baller
- Brad Host
- Anthony Long
- Therese Longe

Library Board Member (Vote for no more than 3, 4 Year Term)

- Wendy Friedman
- Karen Gilbert Rock
- Curtis Trimble
- Jennifer Wheeler

Proposal Section

Senior Millage Proposition

Do you approve of the addition of a new 0.33 mill levy to collect approximately \$1,053,750 per year in revenue to be disbursed to the City of Birmingham for the purpose of making interim improvements and establishing a sinking fund for a senior center that will provide an array of services for older citizens for a three year term, ending on July 1, 2027?

- Yes
- No

Ordinance Amending Prohibition of Marihuana Sales

Shall the Birmingham City Code ordinance, Chapter 26 – Businesses, Article XII, which currently prohibits the sale of marihuana in the City of Birmingham, be amended to authorize and allow one (1) medical marihuana facility and one (1) marihuana recreational establishment to operate in the City of Birmingham?

- Yes
- No

Absentee Ballot Applications

All voters on the permanent absentee ballot application list should have received their application by mail for the November 7, 2023 election. If for some reason you did not receive your absentee ballot application or you are away from your regular mailing address, voters can submit an absentee ballot application online through mi.gov/vote ([apply online](#)).

***Keep in mind that a ballot cannot be forwarded.** Be sure to review your mailing address information and any departure/return dates to ensure your ballot is delivered to the proper location. If you are unsure about the address you have on file please reach out to elections@bhamgov.org or 248-530-1880.

Absentee Ballot Update

The initial mailing of absentee ballots occurred on Thursday, September 26, 2023. All voters who have submitted an absentee ballot application should have received their ballot in the mail by now. All new absentee ballot requests are mailed out the same day or next day. Voters may also pick their ballot up by visiting the Clerk's Office during office hours.

As of October 10, 2023 almost 4,000 absentee ballots have been issued and almost 15% of those ballots have been returned.

Absentee ballots can be returned in person to the Clerk's Office, in the dropbox located behind City Hall, or mailed to City Clerk, P.O. Box 3001, Birmingham, MI 48012.

***Remember to use only the drop boxes for your jurisdiction.**

Drop boxes are specific to a voter's jurisdiction. For example, a Birmingham voter can only use a Birmingham drop box. If the Birmingham voter uses a drop box in a neighboring jurisdiction such as Royal Oak, Bloomfield Township or Southfield Township there will likely be a delay in getting those documents to the Birmingham City Clerk's office in order to be processed. Absentee Ballot Applications and Absentee Ballot Return Envelopes always have your jurisdiction's address and return information on the outside of the postcard or envelope.

Proposal 22-2

New Permanent Ballot List

One of the requirements in Proposal 2022-2 is that clerks now maintain a Permanent Ballot List. The application for the upcoming November 7, 2023 election will include new checkbox language for voters to opt into receiving a ballot for every election. Going forward, absentee ballot applications will not be required for any voter who has opted into the Permanent Ballot List. During partisan primary elections, such as the presidential primary in March 2024, permanent ballot voters will need to respond to a mailing and select which ballot type they would like to receive. Typically the ballot types are Democratic Party Presidential Primary, Republican Party Presidential Primary, and if applicable, a ballot without the Presidential Primary if there is a non-partisan question

10/10/2023

JURISDICTION: BIRMINGHAM CITY (08640)

COMBINED	AV Ballots Issued	Returned on Time / %	Pending / %
00001	511	96 - 18.79%	415 - 81.21%
00002	477	64 - 13.42%	413 - 86.58%
00003	339	48 - 14.16%	291 - 85.84%
00004	490	117 - 23.88%	373 - 76.12%
00005	482	79 - 16.39%	403 - 83.61%
00006	576	84 - 14.58%	492 - 85.42%
00007	439	43 - 9.79%	396 - 90.21%
00008	389	36 - 9.25%	353 - 90.75%
00009	275	29 - 10.55%	246 - 89.45%
Total	3978	596 - 14.98%	3382 - 85.02%

accompanying the Presidential Primary Election. A preview of the application is pictured below with the new check box to opt into the Permanent Ballot List.

APPLICATION FOR ABSENT VOTER'S BALLOT

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONS ➔

NOVEMBER 7, 2023 ELECTION

I certify that I am a United States citizen and a qualified and registered elector in the CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, County of OAKLAND, State of Michigan, I apply for an official ballot, to be voted by me in the election above, and the statements in this application are true.

COMPLETE TO JOIN PERMANENT LIST:
 I want to vote absentee in all elections. Automatically send me an absentee voter ballot for all elections.

WARNING: A PERSON WHO MAKES A FALSE STATEMENT IN THIS DECLARATION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR.

FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

1 Sign/Date
 I certify that I am a United States citizen and that the statements in this Absent Voter Ballot application are true.
VOTER SIGN HERE ➔ X
 Power of attorney is not acceptable Signature of Absent Voter Date / /

Filed _____
 Mailed _____
 Ballot # _____
 Returned _____
 Wd./Pct. # _____
 Clerk _____

2 Complete
YEAR OF BIRTH

3 Complete
VOTER CONTACT INFORMATION
 () _____
 Phone Email

NOTE: Michigan law requires that A.V. Ballots be sent to your registered address unless you are hospitalized, institutionalized, or at an address outside of your community. Complete the following ONLY if you want your ballot sent to an address outside of your community or to a hospital or other institution. **Absentee ballots will not be forwarded by USPS.**

4 Complete if Needed
Complete Only if You Want Your Ballot Sent To A Temporary Address. We can mail it to you where you are. If additional addresses are needed or plans change, contact your local clerk.

Date Leaving For Temporary Address / /	Date of Return / /	(PLEASE PRINT) Temporary Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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No Postage Necessary!

Starting with the November 7, 2023 General Election, all absentee ballot applications and absentee ballot return envelopes for the entire State of Michigan are equipped with a business reply mail permit that will cover the cost of postage for any ballot or application mailed within the United States.

New Look to Return Envelopes

Starting with the November 7, 2023 General Election all absentee ballot return envelopes will be purple. The United States Post Office and Michigan Bureau of Elections worked to redesign these envelopes and changed the color from green to purple to increase the efficiency of processing election mail.

To be opened only by the
Precinct or Absent Voter
Ballot Counting Board

Office of the City Clerk
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street
P.O. Box 3001
Birmingham, MI 48012-3001



NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES



Official Ballot Return Envelope



Drop off or mail your
ballot so that it is
returned by the deadline.

For deadline information,
drop box location(s),
or to track your ballot,
go to mi.gov/vote

FORM #695 www.PrintingSystems.us
(R 05/23) (P 05/23)

**SIGN BACK
OF ENVELOPE**



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 185 LANSING, MI

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
151 MARTIN ST
PO BOX 3001
BIRMINGHAM MI 48012-9902



IMPORTANT! DID YOU...

- Sign in the box below in your own handwriting?
 - Put your ballot in the envelope?
 - Return ballot to the local clerk or drop box by the deadline?
- For deadline information or drop box location(s) go to mi.gov/vote

I assert that:

- I am a United States citizen.
- I am qualified and registered to vote at the address listed.
- I am voting in conformity with state election law.
- I marked my ballot and placed it in this envelope without showing it to anyone.
- I am returning my ballot to the local clerk or drop box by delivering it myself or a member of my immediate family or household, or sending it by public postal, express mail, parcel post service, or other common carrier.

I understand that knowingly making a false statement is a misdemeanor.

VOTER sign here in ink. Power of attorney is not acceptable.

X _____ / /
Signature of Absent Voter Date

This box must be signed or your vote will not be counted.

**VOTER
SIGNATURE
REQUIRED**

If someone assists you or helps you mark your ballot, they must sign and identify themselves.

I assisted the voter who is disabled or unable to mark their ballot according to their directions and without showing it to another person.

Signature of Person Assisting Voter

Print Name of Person Assisting Voter

_____/_____/_____
Address of Person Assisting Voter City State Zip

A person who assists an absent voter and who knowingly makes a false statement is guilty of a felony.

FOR CLERK'S USE ONLY

Returned: _____ Precinct No. _____
Date and Time _____ Ballot No. _____

Voter signature verified (Initials) _____

Rejected? Reason _____

Keep your ballot secure.

It is a felony for anyone to be in possession of an absent voter ballot except authorized election officials, employees of postal services or other common carriers during the normal course of their job handling mail, or a member of the voter's immediate family or household who the absent voter has asked to return the ballot.

Precinct No. _____

New Military and Overseas Voter Changes

The governor signed legislation on May 3, 2023 to allow additional time to receive absentee voter ballots from military and overseas voters. This change comes after Michiganders approved Ballot Proposal 22-2 to amend the state's Constitution last year. The new law states that absentee ballots from military and overseas voters will be counted if the ballot return envelope was postmarked on or before Election Day and received within six days following the election. Voters who are in the military or will be overseas during the November 7, 2023 election must apply for a MOVE ballot at <https://www.fvap.gov/michigan>.

Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board (GCAB)

The Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board met on Friday, October 6, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. to review their strategic plan. The next meeting for the GCAB will be held on Friday, December 1, 2023. To view Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board agendas and minutes visit www.bhamgov.org/GCAB.

Board of Ethics

The Board of Ethics met on Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. to review and approve their opinion on case 2023-02 for Commission Baller regarding the establishment and administration of foundations. More information on the Board of Ethics is available at www.bhamgov.org/ethics.

Board Appointments

The City of Birmingham is looking for dedicated individuals who want to give back to their community by serving on one of our many boards or commissions. Birmingham's different boards and commissions make recommendations that shape the City's future. Serving on a board or commission is a great way to get involved in your community, meet new people and make a positive impact. Don't miss out on the chance to make a difference - go to www.bhamgov.org/boardopportunities to view all available openings.

City Manager's Office

Setting the Record Straight

At the October 2, 2023 regular meeting of the City Commission, resident David Bloom asserted that the City is using a "new policy" to create meeting minutes that "obscure[s] what residents say."

The City has no new policy regarding meeting minutes. The City Clerk follows Birmingham's [Rules of Procedure for the City Commission](#) to draft meeting minutes. The Rules of Procedure for the City Commission were first drafted in June 1991 and have been reviewed and revised by the Commission several times. The rules for meeting minutes are as follows:

Minutes

The minutes shall include the mandatory information as required by the Open Meetings Act 267 of 1976; Section 15.269. The minutes shall reflect an overview or brief summary of the subject matter and any Commission comments that may have had an effect on the outcome. Commission comments may include a summary in support or opposed and discussion which may be relevant for future reference.

The minutes shall include a participating citizen's name and position on an issue when there is public comment during the commission meeting in all of the following instances: (1) a public hearing, (2) an agenda item or (3) recognition of citizens in the audience.

The Rules of Procedure for the City Commission and the City Clerk’s meeting minutes are compliant with the State of Michigan Open Meetings Act 267 of 1976 (OMA) and Robert’s Rules of Order.

Mr. Bloom later pulled the September 11, 2023 minutes from the consent agenda and claimed that his comments regarding minutes were not included. After the Mayor indicated to Mr. Bloom where he could find his comments in the minutes, he apologized and departed from the meeting.

YMCA Building Update

The City met with officials from both the YMCA and Next to discuss building operations for the next three years. Both the YMCA and Next discussed where their respective operations were headed and what building uses they would need and/or desire. The YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit named Parrish Underwood as its new CEO at the end of September 2023. Mr. Underwood is familiar with Birmingham as he was the past director of the Birmingham YMCA. Mr. Underwood will replace Helene Weir, who is retiring. City staff is looking forward to meeting Mr. Underwood and will continue to meet with both the YMCA and Next while awaiting the results of the proposed senior millage vote in November before taking any future steps.

Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee

On Wednesday, October 11, 2023 the AIPC held a public workshop to discuss and develop a community survey. The purpose of the community survey is to assess current and future older person needs. With the input of the AIPC, a proposed community survey will be presented at the regular meeting of the AIPC on Wednesday, October 25, 2023 for final review and edit. Once completed, the community survey will be distributed to the public and will be available in both print and electronic form.

Communications

Around Town e-Newsletter

November Edition

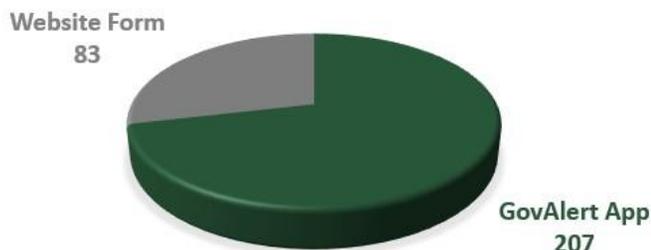
The communications team is working on the November edition of the Around Town e-Newsletter, which will include information about the November 7, 2023 election, Veterans Day Ceremony, leaf collection, holiday events and more. Follow [this link to view the October edition](#) of the Around Town e-Newsletter.



GovPilot Quarterly Report

During the third quarter of 2023, we received a total of 290 citizen requests through the GovPilot system, 207 of which were received via the GovAlert app, and 83 via our website form. So far this year, we have received a total of 713 citizen requests through the GovPilot system, 455 of which were received via the GovAlert App, and 258 via our website form.

GOVPILOT QUARTERLY REPORT JULY - SEPTEMBER 2023 290 CITIZEN REQUESTS RECEIVED



BIRMINGHAM CITY COMMISSION - UPCOMING AGENDA ITEMS

In Progress

Meeting	Topic	Commissioner	Dates Addressed	Status (resolved/ongoing)
10/2/23	Roberts Rules	McLain	10/2/23 Upcoming Workshop	In progress
10/2/23	Implementation of crosswalk standards	M: Baller S: Boutros	10/2/23	In progress
9/18/23	Short Term Rentals	M: Host S: Boutros	9/18/23	In progress
9/18/23	Infrastructure, Flooding Abatement	M: Host S: Baller	9/18/23 10/2/23	In progress
9/18/23	Remediation Strategies for Rodents and Vermin	M: Haig S: Host	9/18/23 10/2/23	In progress
8/28/23	City water and sewer system	M: McLain S: Host	8/28/23 9/11/23	In progress
8/28/23	Biodiversity	M: Haig S: Host	8/28/23 9/11/23	In progress
6/5/23	Discuss unimproved streets and infrastructure	M: Host S: McLain	10/2/23 Workshop	In progress
5/8/23	Parking operations	M: Baller S: Host	5/8/23 5/22/23	In progress
5/8/23	Woodward noise	M: Host S: McLain	5/8/23 6/5/23	In progress
2/27/23	Bench and Little Library for Pat Andrews	M: Host S: McLain	3/13/23 5/8/23	In progress
1/10/22	Leaf blowers	M: Baller S: Host	1/24/22 10/3/22 4/3/23 5/8/23 6/5/23 8/14/23 9/11/23	In Progress
8/15/22	Speed bumps & traffic mitigation efforts		8/29/22 8/14/23	In progress

Resolved

Meeting	Topic	Commissioner	Status
11/14/22	Renters Rights	M: Host	Resolved
12/5/22	Mayor/MPT Selection	McLain	Resolved
4/11/22	BBCC - Mental Health Workshop - More time to talk	M: Baller S: Haig	Resolved
5/9/22	Pickleball	Baller, no vote	Installed on 6-3-22
1/24/22	Social Districts	M: Schafer S: Boutros	No formal action taken by the Commission
5/23/22	Commission Meeting Start Time	Baller	No changes for now
8/15/22	Birmingham Country Club	M: Host S: Haig	Resolved, letter sent
9/12/22	Banner	M: Baller S: Host	Completed
12/5/22	Lighting to sustainability board	Haig	To be explored by Sustainability Board
6/13/22	Sustainability Board	M: Schafer S: Host	Resolved
1/10/22	Food Trucks	M: Host S: Schafer	Staff monitoring
4/25/22	Improvements in Information Provision and Methodology	M: Haig S: Baller	Resolved
3/13	Community foundation (review former letter from Kucharek)	Baller	Resolved
3/28/22	City Manager Selection Process	M: Host S: Boutros	Resolved
1/9/23	Ad Hoc Senior Services Committee	M: Baller S: Longe	Resolved
1/10/22	Commissioner Conduct	No vote	Resolved
8/28/23	Add an Alternate to Ad Hoc Aging in Place Committee	M: McLain S: Host	Resolved

Department of Public Services

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

A draft of the plan will be presented at a special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board on October 24, 2023. Shortly thereafter, there will be a 30-day public review and comment period, anticipated for November 1 through December 4. The City Commission will consider adoption of the plan in December.

MI Sparks Grant Application

The City's application for Trail Improvements in the Booth Park section was not recommended for funding. The department will continue to explore funding opportunities.

Forestry Quarterly Update

The 2023 Fall Tree Plant and Purchase was awarded to KLM Landscape to supply and install 150 trees throughout the City in right-of-ways and parks. There are a total of 25 different species and cultivars being planted to help diversify Birmingham's urban forest.

Seven dams were cleared recently throughout the trail system along the Rouge River corridor. This work is typically performed annually by JH Hart in the late summer or early fall.

Engineering Department

2023 Construction Update

The following construction projects are currently underway:

- Parking Lot No. 5 Slope Repair: Fence installation is complete; planting will occur this month.
- 2022-2023 Cape Seal Program (Southeast corner of the City): Cape seal treatment has been completed and the contractor is finishing punch list items to close out the project.
- Cranbrook Road Non-Motorized Pathway Improvement Program: The contractor is constructing the concrete sidewalk on 14 Mile and the east side of Cranbrook Road.
- 2023 Concrete Sidewalk Program: The contractor is continuing work on the following items: residential area 6: Quarton Road to Maple Road, and western City limits to Lakeside Drive, Downtown area 1A: Chester Road to N. Old Woodward, and Rouge River to Maple Road, ADA ramps within the Downtown Area, miscellaneous repairs throughout the City, miscellaneous sidewalk repairs in Shain Park, installation of bicycle pads and racks in various locations throughout the City.
- Pierce Street Paving Project (14 Mile Road to Lincoln): Construction is continuing on the water main replacement and road installation. As a reminder, Pierce Street is closed between E. Southlawn and Lincoln, and between 14 Mile and W. Southlawn is open for one-way northbound traffic.
- 2023 Asphalt Resurfacing Program: Paving has been completed on the proposed streets, and the contractor will complete punch list items and crack sealing on streets east of S. Eton between Villa and Attard.
- 2023 Sewer Rehabilitation Project: This project started and includes cleaning and televising sewer, and adding sewer lining at various locations throughout the City.
- 2023 Sidewalk Trip Hazard Program: The contractor completed work in Area 6 and Area 7, and is now working in Area 5: Maple Road to Saxon/14 Mile Road, and west City limits to the Rouge River/Southfield Road.
- Lincoln Hills Golf Course Tee No. 1 Tee-Box and Cart Path Improvements: The contractor is completing punch list items.
- Brown Street Paving Project (City's project): The contractor is completing punch list items to close out the project.

- Woodward Ave and Brown/Forest Intersection Improvements (MDOT): MDOT will be starting in the next couple of weeks on an intersection project to improve pedestrian crossing and traffic signals at Woodward and Brown/Forest. There will be a one-lane closure on Woodward Avenue during construction, and there will be times when Brown Street and Forest Street will be closed for up to 10 days for construction. The City will share information with the public about upcoming lane and road closures.

Lead Service Replacement Program:

Property owners with known lead water services recently received a letter from the City, prompting them to schedule replacement of their water service for free. Those who received letters are instructed to follow the described steps to schedule your water service replacement.

Affected property owners will receive information about projects listed above. For more information regarding these projects or programs, please contact the Engineering Department at 248-530-1840.

Fire Department

During the month of October, the Fire Department is recognizing breast cancer awareness and supporting those facing that battle. The Fire Department personnel designed and sold shirts for the campaign. Proceeds will be used to help a local breast cancer warrior. The Fire Department plans to continue this tradition annually and is very proud of all participating firefighters.



Human Resources

New Hires

The City of Birmingham extends warm congratulations to our newly hired employees from September 13, 2023 to October 12, 2023. Their skills, expertise, and enthusiasm are a valuable addition to our team.

Department	Position	Name	Type
IT	Hilla, Brent	IT Assistant	Part-Time
DPS	Zbozen, Zachary	Fleet Mechanic	Full-Time
Planning	Ricketts, Edward	Administrative Assistant	Full-Time
Building	Brzozowski, Patrick	Code Enforcement Officer Coordinator	Full-Time

October Hiring Anniversaries

The City of Birmingham celebrated the hiring anniversaries of several employees. We extend our heartfelt appreciation for their exceptional service and unwavering dedication. Their contributions are deeply valued and recognized.

Years Of Service	Employee	Department	Position
1	Mcinerney, Steven	Fire	Fire / AEMT
1	Righter, Donald	Police	Crossing Guard
1	Sotirovski, Nadezda	Police	Crossing Guard
1	Katz, Ryan	Treasury	Deputy Treasurer
2	Strassburg, Justin	Fire	Fire / AEMT
2	Pranger, Michael	Police	Police Officer
2	Glenn, Lawson	Library	Library Operations Assistant
3	Jurek, Sara	Library	Library Substitute Librarian
3	Haddock, Ingrid	Clerks	Part-Time Clerical Assistant
3	Summers, Cynthia	Library	Library Assistant I
3	Whitted, Faith	Library	Library Page
3	Peterson, Nolan	Library	Library Page
3	Nash, Phoenix	Library	Library Ref. Assistant
3	Bassett, Erika	BSD	BSD PR Marketing Specialist

4	Fairbairn, Melissa	Managers Office	Assistant City Manager
4	Pleasant, Allister	DPS	SSW Technician
6	Abraham, Jr, Robert	Fire	Fire / AEMT
6	Gillick, Hunter	Fire	Fire / AEMT
6	Cowan, Thomas	Planning	Senior City Planner
6	Mcnab, Bradley	DPS	P&F Assistant Foreman
8	Richards, James	Library	Library IT Coordinator
10	Wheeler, Carolyn	Library	Library Substitute Librarian
10	Morad, Michael	Building	Asst. Building Official
11	Gamboa, Marianne	Managers Office	Communications Director
12	Klimmek, Stephanie	Library	Library Department Head
13	Slack, Michael	Fire	Battalion Chief
14	Eisele, Gary	Library	Library Assistant II
19	Bouse, Adam	DPS	SSW Technician
19	Jones, Shon	DPS	SSW Foreman

Employment Opportunities

The City is currently accepting applications for the following positions. To submit an application or for more information go to www.bhamgov.org/jobs.

Department	Position	Type	Application Closing
Clerks	Clerical Assistant	Part Time	Until Filled
Clerks	Deputy City Clerk	Full Time	Until Filled
Building	Plumbing Inspector	Full Time	Until Filled
DPS	Ice Arena Concessions & Maintenance	Part Time	Until Filled

Planning Department

Planning Board

A tentative Planning Board list of scheduled and/or recently completed items is provided below:

1. Dumpster Enclosures – Study Session (October 11, 2023)
2. Triangle District Mixed-Use Standards – Study Session (October 11, 2023)
3. 380 S. Bates – Community House – Rezoning (October 25, 2023)
4. 720 S. Adams – Community Impact Study & Preliminary Site Plan Review (October 25, 2023)
5. 380 S. Bates – Community House – Community Impact Study & Preliminary Site Plan Review (November 8, 2023)

6. 377 Hamilton Row – Birmingham Sushi Café – Special Land Use, Final Site Plan & Design Review (November 8, 2023)

Historic District Commission & Historic District Study Committee

On September 26, 2023 ([Agenda](#)), the Historic District Study Committee moved to direct City Staff to transmit copies of the Preliminary Historic District Study Committee report for 1283 Buckingham to each entity required in Chapter 127, Section 127-4 (5) of the Birmingham Code of Ordinances. Not less than 60 calendar days after the transmittal of the preliminary report, the Historic District Study Committee shall hold a public hearing in compliance with Public Act 267 of 1976, as amended.

In regards to the Historic District Commission (HDC), the work on the Historic Preservation Master Plan will continue through the fall/winter with public engagement, surveys, and meetings with historic property owners to fully inform the plan. At the same time, the HDC has been studying plans from other jurisdictions around the country to get an idea of what could be included.

Multi-Modal Transportation Board

The Multi-Modal Transportation Board is in the process of reviewing upcoming construction projects for Shirley Dr. and Arlington Rd. and is considering the installation of sidewalks for each road.

Public Arts Board

There was an unveiling celebration for the sculpture "Shooting Star" by John Henry at S. Old Woodward on Thursday, October 12, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. The unveiling took place immediately before the BSD's Birmingham Art Walk event from 5 - 8 p.m., which featured local artists who displayed their work at participating downtown stores.

Sustainability

The Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) is deep into the data gathering phase of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory, which is slated to be complete, or near complete by the end of the year. The ESC has held several public engagement outreach efforts to help inform the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan, which is the second task that the ESC will be completing in 2024. The remaining scheduled engagement activities for the first leg of this project will be Municipal Round Tables held this month.

Police Department

Thank you, Jim Lotridge

On Friday, September 29, 2023, after 28 years of employment with the Police Department as a Parking Enforcement Assistant, Jim Lotridge has retired. PEA Lotridge is well-known in the community for his years of walking downtown speaking with and greeting business owners and patrons. He will be missed, not only by the Police Department but also by numerous City employees and community members for his positive attitude, ability to put a smile on your face, and his infamous storytelling.

Drone Purchase

The Birmingham Police Department has purchased its first drone. The Matrice 350 RTK safety drone was purchased from NOAR Technologies, a local Clawson-based company. This drone will be used for a variety of law enforcement situations and can be used for other City related incidents and projects. The Police Department began the selection process for training and Ofc. Stephan Syts is the first to obtain the required FAA training and certification. Additional officers will be sent for training to provide increased availability of certified officers to deploy the drone when needed.

Pistol Range HVAC System

The HVAC system at the Birmingham Police Pistol Range was found to be totally inoperable after major damage was found to the system. This system, which is well over 20 years old and beyond its serviceable

life expectancy, was found to have a major crack in the system components due to age and use. Quotes were obtained for its replacement and Delta Temp Service was selected for \$13,545.00 to remove and install a new 4-ton unit.

New Radio Communications System

On Monday, September 25, the Birmingham Police and Fire Departments converted to a new radio communications system. The culmination of a four-year 58 million dollar project, Birmingham, along with every other public safety agency in Oakland County, converted to the Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS). The MPSCS system geographically covers 100% of the state and has over 90% of all public safety agencies as users. This will allow for greater interoperability between agencies and is built with multiple layers of redundancy to withstand large-scale emergencies. The previous system, Harris Opensky, was owned and operated by Oakland County and had reached end of life. Harris Opensky only allowed for interoperability within Oakland County, and between Oakland County agencies. The new MPSCS system is one of the most technically advanced in the world and will allow for instant communication with almost any public safety agency in the state.

Parking Systems Update

Construction

Repairs are starting to wrap up at the N. Old Woodard Garage, including concrete restoration, handrail repair, painting of ceilings, walls, and stairwell walls, and the installation of LED lights. The exterior walls of the garage were also painted to help improve the look of the garage.

Finances

On October 1, the City began collecting all revenue from its five parking garages. The City hired SP+ as its third party operator over 30 years ago. During that time, SP+ collected the revenue on the City's behalf. This change will help streamline operations and allow the City to collect all parking revenue. The City already collects revenue from parking meters and citations.

EV Charging

The City will post a Request for Proposal for EV charging in late October. The City is looking to pilot approximately 20 EV chargers, 10 in Lot 7 (the Shain Park lot), and 10 in the Chester St. Garage. The City is seeking qualified vendors who are willing to design, build, and operate the EV chargers.

Occupancy:

SEPTEMBER AVG CAPACITY	
Chester Garage (880)	13.00%
Old Woodward (745)	21.00%
Park Garage (811)	25.00%
Peabody Garage (437)	30.00%
Pierce Garage (706)	33.00%

Future Agenda Items

Download a summary of [future agenda items](#).

Future Workshop Items

Download a summary of [future workshop items](#).