

BC City Connection

Bi-monthly newsletter for the Battle Creek community

City Manager's Corner with Rebecca Fleury



Are you starting to see the leaves change colors? I have seen small signs of red, yellow and orange, signaling the beginning of autumn. Kids are settling in at school; football, marching band, volleyball, soccer, and tennis are just a few events in full swing.

Please be mindful of those red school bus lights. It is the law that all traffic stops when those lights are flashing red. Help keep our kids safe.

This month is **Fire Prevention Week**. It is important that all homes have working smoke detectors. The men and women of the Battle Creek Fire Department will be out reminding our neighbors — and our kindergarten neighbors at their schools — to have smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, and emergency plans. We hope you have join us on Oct. 12 at Station 5 in Urandale for fun, prizes, and refreshments.

Halloween festivities also are coming up! Trunk or Treat with BCPD will be on Oct. 31, once again. Please stay tuned for details!

Recently, we have observed and engaged in many spirited conversations on social media, around various topics. Please remember that we encourage civil conversation, and that the city communicates over a variety of channels that we hope are helpful to neighbors. We do our best to share information in as many ways as possible, so that we reach as many of you as we can.

You can find us here, on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Nextdoor, our website, AccessVision, and YouTube. We also are working hard to translate many of our messages into Spanish and Burmese, again, aiming to reach as many neighbors as possible.

I hope you can enjoy Fall into the Arts on Oct. 18, and the final days of the Farmers Market!

City Calendar

For more, visit www.battlecreekmi.gov

- **Board of Appeals**, 1 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 20, Dec. 18
- **Bicycle Advisory Committee**, 3 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 21, Dec. 19
- **City Commission**, 7 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 12 (organizational; regular meeting follows at 8 p.m.); will vote on upcoming meeting calendar
- **Civil Service Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 25, Dec. 23
- **Dangerous Buildings**, 1 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 13, Dec. 11
- **Historic District Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 4, Dec. 9
- **Human Relations Board**, 3:30 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 20
- **Planning Commission**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 20, Dec. 18
- **Police/Fire Retirement System Board**, 10 a.m., City Hall: Nov. 18, Dec. 16
- **Sustainable BC Committee**, 1 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 25
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**, 4 p.m., City Hall: Nov. 12, Dec. 10
- City offices **CLOSED** for Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Transit bus/van services operating; Waste Management open.
- **Battle Creek Christmas Parade**, Nov. 23, downtown.
- City offices **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving: Nov. 28. Transit bus/van services canceled; Waste Management closed, with one-day delay rest of week.
- City offices **CLOSED** for Friday after Thanksgiving, Nov. 29. Transit bus/van services operating; Waste Management open.
- City offices **CLOSED** for Christmas Eve, Dec. 24. Transit bus/van services operating; Waste Management open.
- City offices **CLOSED** for Christmas, Dec. 25. Transit bus/van services canceled; Waste Management closed, with one-day delay rest of week.
- **Yard waste** curbside pickup (city limits only), ends Nov. 29

Please stay tuned as committees begin approving meeting schedules for Dec/2020.

Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 6-12



Battle Creek Fire Department open house:

Meet us at Station 5 in Urandale, 1170 W. Michigan Ave., from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 12.

Stay tuned for more info, including a shuttle to help with parking.



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, 34 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, 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 Sherry Sofia, at-large
269-967-8272

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

Jim Lance, Ward 5
269-441-4522

Susan Baldwin, at-large
269-963-6901

Kaytee Faris, at-large
734-330-6236

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 Comcast 17/917 and AT&T 99 at 6 p.m. Wednesdays, and online, accessvision.tv.

October: How to -- ride the bus
November: To be determined

Spotlight on: Payment fee structure

Many neighbors have noticed the new enhanced access fee structure that began in August — this is a fee attached to all credit and debit card transactions to do city business.

This includes utility bills, taxes, permits, and any other transaction you have with the city in which you use a credit/debit card as your payment. This applies whether you pay with a credit/debit card online, in person, or over the phone.

This fee structure is a long time coming to cover the processing fees the city must pay to offer the option to pay by credit and debit card; the city has absorbed \$80,000 to \$90,000 per year to cover these fees in the past.

We are working with Oakland County, Michigan's G2G Cloud Solutions (g2gcloud.com) to provide the technology that makes online credit and debit card payments possible for many city services that include fees.

We hope that neighbors will take advantage of the dozens of services that will gradually roll out online, providing more convenience to city customers and, perhaps, saving folks a trip to our facilities.

City staff receive the online payment information, and ensure that payments apply to the correct accounts, and are accurate in our systems.

Should we every see money left over after fees have covered the credit card company fees, the city and Oakland County would split the remainder, to help fund our staff time and equipment.

You can see the fee structure table on the city's website, navigating to the I Want To... tab, then Make an Online Payment. We also have reproduced it here.

As you can see, the fee changes, depending on the transaction amount, which coincides with the way credit card companies charge the city.

If you pay via electronic check, there is a flat fee of \$2.50, no matter the transaction amount.

Neighbors can pay by paper check, or in person at

City Hall, with no fee attached. Automatic bank drafting also carries no fee; you must come to City Hall with a routing number and bank account number, and city staff will set up the automatic payment.

Price range	Enhanced access fee
\$0-49.99	\$2.50 flat per order
\$50-99.99	\$4 flat per order
\$100-199.99	\$5.50 flat per order
\$200-299.99	\$8.25 flat per order
\$300-399.99	\$11 flat per order
\$400-499.99	\$13.75 flat per order
\$500-599.99	\$16.50 flat per order
\$600-699.99	\$19.25 flat per order
\$700-799.99	\$22 flat per order
\$800-899.99	\$24.75 flat per order
\$900-999.99	\$27.50 flat per order
\$1,000 & over	2.75 percent of order
Electronic check	\$2.50 flat per order



A new service from the City of Battle Creek / Battle

Creek Transit is BCGo! This is a premium shared-ride, on-demand, same-day service.

- \$15 fare per passenger, per one-way trip
- Hours 6 p.m. to midnight Saturdays; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays (no weekday service at this time)
- Only in the Transit service area—City of Battle Creek and portions of Springfield and Bedford, Emmett, and Pennfield Townships

For more information visit www.battlecreekmi.gov/transit, or call 269-966-3474. Ride with us!