

CITY OF ORCHARD LAKE VILLAGE

NEWSLETTER ♦♦♦ VOLUME 15.2 ♦♦♦ JUNE 2018



A Message From Mayor Bruce McIntyre

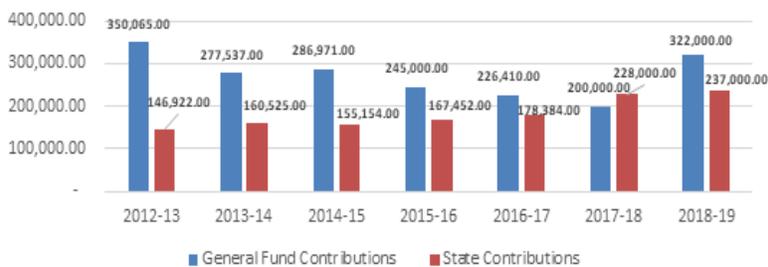
City Council voted unanimously in May to raise the City operating taxes by one-half mill (0.5), or about \$185,000, to speed up repairs of City streets since their condition is the largest complaint from our citizens. This millage increase is the first in one in three years.

In this article I'd like to explain where street money comes from and how it is spent. Cities are responsible for their own streets. The Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) is responsible for the main roads in our City, which are Orchard Lake Road, Commerce Road and Pontiac Trail. RCOC does not contribute to the maintenance of our local streets. On the other hand, the City sometimes contributes to the county roads. This year the City of Orchard Lake will contribute \$70,000 to the resurfacing of Commerce Road. While our residents are a minority of that road's users, this work would not happen without the City's participation. When rebuilding of Pontiac Trail occurs in 2020-2021, the City will have to contribute to this project as well.

Neither Cities nor Road Commissions in Michigan receive enough state funding (taxes paid by drivers) to keep up with their responsibilities. That means most of these repairs would not happen unless money was also taken from the "general fund" of the City – the fund where your taxes go, and which pays for general City operations like police, fire, trash removal etc.

In the first chart below you can see the amount of road money that the City's General Fund has appropriated for the roads along with the amount of State Road funds received over the years and for the upcoming fiscal year 2018-19. The second chart below represents the total amount of road expenditures which includes, not only winter maintenance, but also pothole repairs, shoulder work and re-paving of the City streets.

Total Contributions from City General Fund and State Road Funds



Total Road Expenditures Major & Local



During the last recession our road repairs came almost to a halt, due to a huge drop in Orchard Lake's taxable value. (Taxable value is the basis on which your real estate taxes are calculated). So, we are now playing catch-up on repairs. Taxable values have increased, but they are far below assessed ("real") values, due to the Headlee Amendment, which limits how much a property's taxable value can increase in a given year.

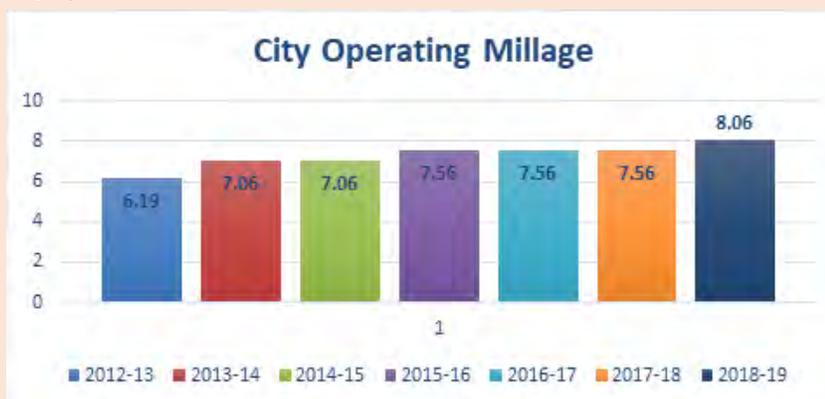
This year the total assessed value of Orchard Lake property is \$484,353,730, the highest ever but scarcely above the previous record of \$464,872,170 in fiscal year 2008-09. Today's total taxable value – the value on which taxes are paid – is only \$377,377,931. That remains short of the record set 10 years ago, before the recession, of \$394,094,270. From 2014 to 2017 our assessed value increased 31 percent, but taxable value only 7.4 percent. Another accompanying chart tracks the history of the City's taxable value over the last few years.



What determines what streets get fixed and when? The conditions of all streets are rated according to a professional method called PASER. (Please see the chart, which shows the percentage of streets in varying conditions.) The City maintains a long-term priority plan from this information. This fiscal year, 2018-19, will mean unusually high expenditures due to a likely overlay on the entire stretch of Old Orchard Trail and the paving of Indian Trail north of Seminary Road, Wards Point Drive and Erie Drive.



Your City Council is very conservative about the use of your taxes, and we do not take lightly any increase in the tax rate. The City's overall operating millage has not been increased over the last three years (see chart below). Please keep in mind: (1) City taxes are a very small part of your total tax bill, and (2) the tax rate multiplied by your taxable value determines what you pay.



I welcome any comments or questions on this information. You may leave them at bmcintyre@cityoforchardlake.com or at 248-683-3063.

Thank you,
Mayor Bruce McIntyre

New Faces in the City

If you've been out and about the City, you may have already met Mike Lee and Roger Gardner, our new Department of Public Works employees. Together they perform road maintenance including snowplowing, drainage work, building and equipment maintenance, Sanctuary preservation, and any other work associated with City operations.

Mike Lee joined us in June of 2017. His 15 years at West Bloomfield Parks and Recreation prepared him well for his work with our City. Mike has extensive knowledge of our City and its operations. He enjoys being a leader and doing what it takes to get the job done. When he's not working for the City, you'll find him in his garage working on cars or riding his Harley. He enjoys spending time with his family consisting of a wife and four dogs.



Left to Right: Mike Lee & Roger Gardner

Roger Gardner joined us in January of 2018 after spending the last 13 years at the West Bloomfield Water & Sewer Department. He has vast knowledge of how our sewer system and drainage system works in the City. He is a very hard-working and dedicated individual that cares greatly about our City. Roger enjoys riding his motorcycle, hanging out with his four children (two boys and two girls), and is currently learning about the thrills of grandparenting as he has a brand-new granddaughter.

You can email DPW@cityoforchardlake.com if you'd like to welcome them to the City.

What does water quality have to do with washing your car?

Water quality is an important issue to the residents of southeast Michigan. Every step we do to help keep our waters clean is one step closer to improving that quality.

If you prefer to wash your car at home here are some watershed friendly tips to keep in mind:

- Choose a biodegradable and phosphate-free soap.
- Wash your car on gravel or other pervious surfaces . Washing cars on grass is an option but runs the danger of compacting soil and damaging tree roots.
- Use a hose nozzle with a trigger to save water. Pour your bucket of wash water onto the lawn or down the sink when you're done, not on the driveway or street.

Every measure that you can take, especially when it comes to urban stormwater pollution prevention, helps to protect water quality of our lakes, rivers and streams. Visit: <http://www.crowc.org/stormwater-protection/> for more information.

Household Hazardous Waste Event

Orchard Lake residents will be entitled to participate in the West Bloomfield Household Hazardous Waste Disposal event on Saturday, September 29th from 9AM to 2PM at West Bloomfield Civic Center off Walnut Lake Road west of Orchard Lake Rd. Please organize with your neighbors as the cost to the City is \$50.00 per car. For more information on the type of waste collected, please contact the information hotline at (248) 451-4834.



Did you know?

City of Orchard Lake Village allows the installation of a secondary water meter for water that is used strictly outdoors that will not enter the sewage system. Water flowing through the secondary meter will only be charged for water, not for sewage treatment. Anyone drawing water from the lake or a well for lawn irrigation would not benefit from this secondary meter. For more information, please visit http://www.cityoforchardlake.com/departments/water_and_sewer

Fine Art Fine Wine Fair

Orchard Lake St. Mary's
3535 Commerce Rd
Orchard Lake, MI
Saturday, June 23rd
from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, June 24th
from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

For more info visit
FineArtFineWineFair.com





City of Orchard Lake Village

3955 Orchard Lake Rd Orchard Lake MI 48323

Ph:(248) 682-2400 Fax: (248) 682-1308

www.CityofOrchardLake.com

Cable Community Panel

You are invited to participate in a Cable Community Panel that meets quarterly to provide the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communications Commission with valuable input. As a community volunteer, you can give your insight regarding community needs and interests, along with feedback on current and future programming on Civic Center TV (Channel 15), the community radio station – WBLD, and the website.

For more information, please visit our website at www.cityoforchardlake.com to view a fact sheet or contact Anne Dziuba at 248-681-6264 or annejane18@yahoo.com.

Ordinance Awareness

Last summer a small dog wandered from the lake shore into a wooded area and its leg got caught in a snare trap. Luckily, the owner heard the dog in distress and was able to free it so the dog's leg was not severely injured.

Please note that by City Ordinance it is unlawful for any person to hunt or trap, kill, pursue or take in any manner any wild game animals, game birds, wild fowl or songbirds within the limits of the City. However, trapping is permitted when the trap releases the animal unharmed or within the building.

Voter Information

You can find a wealth of voter information at the Michigan Voter Information Center (mi.gov/vote) including verifying your voter registration, viewing sample ballots, and tracking your absentee ballot.

Your voter registration address can be updated at www.ExpressSOS.com