



The Villager

The Official Newsletter for Beverly Hills Residents

Inside This Issue:

New Water/ Sewer Rates	1-3
Assistance With Water Bill Payments	4
Direct Payment Enrollment Form	5
Curbside Chipping Schedule	6
Upcoming Events	7
Community Calendar	Back Cover

Village Offices
(248) 646-6404

Public Safety
(248) 540-3400

Southfield Township
(248) 540-3420

Website

www.VillageBeverlyHills.Com

The Future of Our Water and Sewer System

Aging infrastructure is a looming issue facing communities nationwide. The Village of Beverly Hills is no exception. Our water and sewer system are vitally important to maintaining the quality-of-life residents have come to expect, but it is not readily observable as it is underground and out of sight.

Thus, much of our system is facing the end of its life cycle and needs to be properly maintained and replaced. This is a costly prospect, but one that the Village must undertake. Water and sewer rates need to rise to meet the increased cost. This is not a decision that is made lightly. The Village Council and Administration strive to be good and transparent stewards of the public trust. Without proactive care and funding, the system will face an increasing number of water main breaks, leaks, sink holes, and interruptions of service. Addressing emergency problems is much more expensive than investing in preventative maintenance and capital improvements. This special edition of The Villager is intended to provide you with an explanation of why rates increased, effective July 1, 2023.

Continued on Page 2



Where We Currently Stand



The Village has not taken on a major repair or replacement of pipes in the system for many years. There are sewer pipes in need of major rehabilitation and cast-iron water mains that are roughly 100 years old that need replacement. There were over 20 water main breaks from last fall to this winter. Pictured left is a piece of cast iron pipe from a recent Beverly Hills water main break.

The process of repairing and replacing them needs to be part of a long-term planning process to ensure that we are able to deliver fresh, clean and reliable water and sanitary sewer services to our residents.

The Way Forward

The Village has raised usage rates and fees in previous years, but not enough to meet additional costs for major preventative maintenance or for capital projects. There is a need for adequate cash reserves for emergencies and for projects to prolong or replace our existing infrastructure.

To responsibly maintain the system, the Village will be establishing a reserve, which is set aside for cash flow imbalances in the water fund and for any emergencies that may occur within the system. The reserve will also provide funds for preventive maintenance, repairs, and replacement projects,. The Village would plan to use these funds to first address immediate needs, such as sewer lining, sewer replacement and repair, water main upgrades and replacement of our current water meters, which are reaching the end of their life cycle. Future projects would be ongoing and based on assessed needs and costs.

New Water/ Sewer Rates

In order to cover our costs, achieve these reserves, and continue to maintain our infrastructure into the future, water and sewer usage rates have increased 16% and the Ready to Serve Fee (previously the Infrastructure Fee) will be raised from \$70 to \$100. This fee is being re-named to better reflect its usage. The fee covers the system-wide costs that the Village pays to have water and sewer service ready at any given residence. It will take several years to reach the necessary reserve levels. However, once we have attained the necessary reserves, we can continue to put funds toward preventative maintenance, repairs, and capital projects.

	<u>Ready to Serve Fee</u> (Previously Infrastructure Fee)	<u>DEBT</u>	<u>TOTAL FIXED CHARGE</u>	<u>WATER RATE</u> (Per 100 CF)	<u>SEWER RATE</u> (Per 100 CF)	<u>COMBINED RATE</u> (Per 100 CF)
Previous Rates (before 7/1/23)	\$70	\$45	\$115	\$2.4345	\$7.2109	\$9.6455
New Rates (as of 7/1/23)	\$100	\$45	\$145	\$2.8240	\$8.3647	\$11.1887

We hope to increase rates at lower increments moving forward. The increases this year will replenish our fund reserves and will allow us to maintain lower and more predictable rate increases in the future.

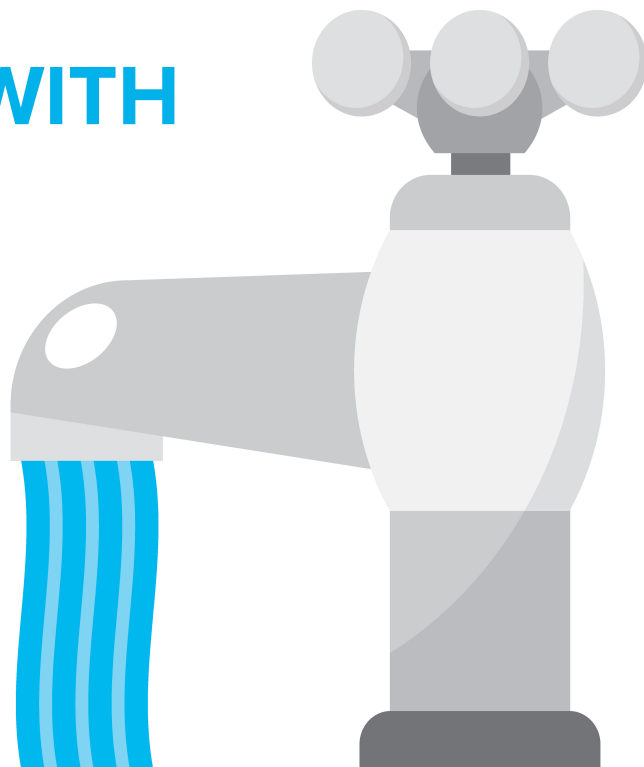
When Will This Happen?

The new water rates took effect on July 1, 2023. Any water usage after that date will be billed the new amount. Depending on what water billing section you live in, you will first see the new rates take effect on the bills sent out in October, November, or December of 2023. Delivering clean, safe drinking water to our residents and ensuring effective treatment of sewage is a top priority of the Village. These increases are necessary to responsibly maintain the system for years to come and ensure Beverly Hills remains a viable and top-rated community. **On behalf of the Village Council and Village Administration, thank you for allowing us to continue to serve you.**

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH YOUR WATER BILL?

WRAP CAN HELP!

The Water Residential Assistance Program provides funding to eligible, low-income households. Funding is provided by the Great Lakes Water Authority and is administered in partnership with local community action agencies.



WRAP can help reduce your water bill and pay past due balances!

WRAP Eligibility:

- Reside within an eligible GLWA Member Community(see reverse side for list)
- Responsible for paying your water bill
- At or below 200% of the federal poverty level
- Own or rent your home

200% Federal Poverty Chart

Number of Household Members	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Income Limit (\$)	29,160	39,440	49,720	60,000	70,280	80,560	90,840	101,120	111,400	121,680	131,960	142,240	152,520	162,800



313.386.9727
www.WayneMetro.org/WRAP





Water Department

Direct Payment Enrollment Form

Follow the 4 Easy Steps to Setting Up Direct Payment of your Water/Sewer Bill

1. Complete the contact information requested below (please print):

Name: _____

Service Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Water Billing Account Number: _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

2. Provide your signature for authorization:

I authorize the Village of Beverly Hills to deduct my water utility billing payments from my checking account listed below. ***I understand that I control my payments and if at any time I decide to discontinue this service, I will notify the Village of Beverly Hills.*** I also understand that all information here will remain confidential.

THIS FORM CANNOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT YOUR SIGNATURE

Signature: _____ Date: _____

3. Provide the required financial information below:

To ensure the correct account number is used for this electronic payment and to obtain the ABA/routing number, **please contact your financial institution for assistance.**

Name of financial institution: _____

ABA/Routing number: _____ (9 digit #, may be found at the lower left corner of your checks).

Checking Acct #: _____ (please attach a void check from this acct)

4. Photocopy this form for your records and return original with your current payment or mail to:

Village of Beverly Hills Water Department
18500 W. 13 Mile Rd.
Beverly Hills, MI 48025

CURBSIDE CHIPPING SCHEDULE 2023

The Village will be continuing its curbside chipping program this year, **during the week of the 4th Monday of each month**. Please note that branches will not be chipped except on the scheduled weeks. Branches must be placed to the side of the curb on your normal trash day. Branch pick up and chipping will be conducted sometime during that week. The 2023 schedule will be as follows:

- **Week beginning Monday, August 28th, 2023**
- **Week beginning Monday, September 25th, 2023**
- **Week beginning Monday, October 23rd, 2023**
- **Week beginning Monday, November 27th, 2023**

Curbside chipping will not be available during winter months, but will resume in April 2024, with the week beginning April 22nd, 2024.

As a reminder of the program's guidelines, residents can place stacked branches between 2 inches and 6 inches in diameter at the curbside for collection and chipping. We ask that branches be stacked, not bundled, and that the cut ends be placed parallel to the curb. Twigs and branches smaller than 2 inches must



be put with your normal yard waste bag or container, in lengths not exceeding 4 feet, and placed to the curb by 7:00 a.m. on your normal trash day. Branches larger than 6 inches in diameter must be disposed of privately.

You may also dispose of branches between 2 – 6 inches in diameter through our normal yard waste service. However, branches must be cut to 4-foot lengths or less, bundled with twine, weigh no more than 40 pounds, and set at the curb for collection.

Village Council

Council President

John George

President Pro-Tem

Racheal Hrydziusko

Council Members

**Rock Abboud
Tracy Kecskemeti
John Mooney
Ryan O'Gorman
Mike White**

Village Administration

Jeff Campbell, Village Manager

Rich Torongeau, Public Safety
Director

Neil Johnston, Public Services
Director

Sheila McCarthy, Finance Director

Kristin Rutkowski, Assistant
Manager/ Clerk

Peggy Linkswiler, Treasurer

Mark Stec, Planning & Zoning
Administrator

John Girard, Building Official

Carissa Brown, Permit Supervisor
Economic Development Associate

Holly Townsend, Permit Tech

Matt Young, Code Enforcement
Officer

Chandá Simmons, Utility Billing
Clerk

Jay Blenkhorn, Assistant to the
Village Manager

Upcoming Events

Java & Jazz:

Sunday, September 17,
9:00 am – 12 noon.
Featuring the Ryan Bills
Trio.

Special thanks to the
Beverly Hills Lions Club
for sponsoring the
coffee for this event.



Read in the Park:

Saturday, September 30

11:00 a.m. Rhonda Gowler Greene

Join us at Beverly Park for a fun visit with Rhonda Gowler Greene, author of over twenty-five children's books including the new book Supergran! Book Beat will have books available for purchase and signing. Afterwards, walk the Storybook Trail featuring one of Rhonda Gowler Greene's books. Registration required.

2:00 p.m. Frank Polito

Join us at Beverly Park for a fun and fabulous visit with local Michigan author and playwright Frank Polito. Mr. Polito has published several novels and his plays have been produced in multiple cities across America and is a regular contributor to the popular lifestyle blog Kenneth. Books will be available for purchase. Registration required.

Thanks to Baldwin Public Library for organizing this annual event!





18500 West Thirteen Mile Road
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
248-646-6404
www.villagebeverlyhills.com

Prst Std
U.S. Postage
PAID
Beverly Hills
Permit No. 100



Printed on recycled paper

Community Calendar

September

- 4 - Labor Day
Village and Township Offices Closed
No Trash Pickup
- 5 - Village Council Meeting
Monday's Trash Pickup
- 6 - Tuesday's Trash Pickup
- 11 - Patriot Day
Zoning Board of Appeals
- 14 - Summer & Village Taxes Due
- 17 - Java & Jazz at Beverly Park
- 19 - Village Council Meeting
- 20 - Cable Board Meeting
- 21 - Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
- 27 - Planning Commission Meeting
- 30 - Read In the Park

October

- 3 - Village Council Meeting
- 9 - Columbus Day
Normal Trash Pickup
Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting
- 15 - Java & Jazz at Beverly Park
- 17 - Village Council Meeting
- 19 - Parks & Recreation Board Meeting
- 25 - Planning Commission Meeting
- 28 - Halloween Hoot
- 31 - Halloween