



BIRMINGHAM

A WALKABLE CITY

AROUND TOWN E-NEWSLETTER ● APRIL 2026



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SOCIAL MEDIA

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IN THIS ISSUE

[RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM](#)

[PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS](#)

[DESIGN "I VOTED" STICKERS](#)

[NEW BUSINESSES](#)

CITY OFFICES

City Hall, located at 151 Martin Street, is open Monday through Friday from 8a.m.-5p.m. The entrances on Martin, Pierce, and on the south side of the building are open to the public Monday through Friday from 8a.m. – 5p.m., along with the barrier-free entrance behind the building. The Henrietta entrance is closed to the public.

MEETINGS

City Commission and other city boards meet in person, and most have a virtual option (see meeting agendas for Zoom information). For meetings that occur after hours, visitors may access City Hall through the Police Department lobby entrance on Pierce Street. Watch many city meetings on the local cable access channel and by web streaming on the [city's Vimeo channel](#).

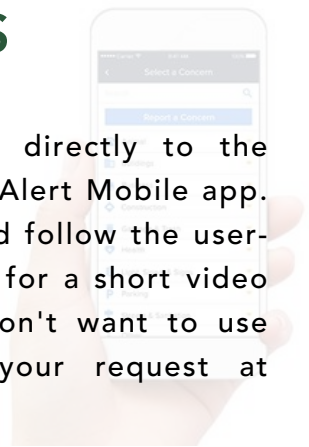
CONTACT US

Visit bhamgov.org/contacts to view a list of department contact numbers.



SUBMIT CONCERNS WITH GOVALERT

Submit non-emergency concerns directly to the City of Birmingham using the GovAlert Mobile app. Simply download the free app and follow the user-friendly prompts. [Follow this link](#) for a short video with step-by-step instructions. Don't want to use the app? That's OK! Submit your request at bhamgov.org/citizenrequests.



CITY OFFICES CLOSED FRIDAY, APRIL 3

In observance of Good Friday, city offices will be closed on Friday, April 3. As always, the police and fire departments will be on duty to ensure the safety of our community. Please note there will be no refuse collection delay during the week before or after Easter.



CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Looking for the inside scoop at City Hall? Download the [City Manager's Report](#) prepared for the City Commission each month. Birmingham City Manager Jana Ecker provides the latest updates from city departments and a sneak peek at upcoming events, staffing changes, developments and more.

JOIN US FOR A CITY COMMISSION WORKSHOP

MAKE A DIFFERENCE: APPLY FOR VACANT COMMISSION SEAT

On Friday, March 13, 2026, Mayor Pro-Tem Anthony Long submitted a notice of resignation from his position on the City Commission, effective April 13, 2026 at the conclusion of the regular City Commission meeting. According to the City Charter, the Commission must appoint a new City Commissioner within 30 days of the vacant seat. Applications are now being accepted to fill the vacant City Commission seat from April 13, 2026 through the November 2, 2027 general municipal election.

Completed applications must be submitted to the City Clerk's Office on or before noon on Wednesday, April 8, 2026. These applications will appear in the public agenda for the City Commission workshop on Monday, April 13, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. During the workshop, the City Commission will conduct interviews of the applicants. At the end of the regular City Commission meeting immediately following the workshop, the City Commission will make nominations and vote for a candidate. The selected candidate will be sworn in at the conclusion of the regular City Commission meeting, and will begin serving as an acting City Commissioner during the City's Budget Hearing on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Applicants must be residents of the City of Birmingham for at least one year and registered electors. Interested citizens may request an application from the City Clerk's Office or [download a PDF of the application here](#).



ENJOY PORTAL FOR VIEWING AND SEARCHING AGENDA PACKETS AND MINUTES

The city's Agenda and Meeting Management portal by [CivicPlus](#) makes it easy to view and search City Commission agenda packets and minutes. Coming soon, all city board and committee meeting materials will be available within the portal. Benefits of the portal include:

- enhanced packet accessibility
- easily find and search within agenda packets
- ability to download one agenda memo or attachment rather than the entire packet
- user-friendly digital packets support sustainability and paperless initiatives

Follow [these instructions](#) to navigate meeting materials and search within the portal, and access [City Commission documents within the portal here](#).

MEET THE STAFF

JULIA LEAVY, BSD EVENTS & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Meet Julia Leavy, the Birmingham Shopping District's new Events & Business Development Assistant. Look for Julia at the Spring Stroll on April 11, the Birmingham Farmers Market on Sundays beginning May 3, and at other community events throughout the year. Julia is a Birmingham resident and she's excited to work for the city! Learn more at bhamgov.org/meetthestaff and say hi to Julia when you see her around town this spring.



DESIGN "I VOTED" STICKERS FOR ELECTIONS

The city is inviting residents to showcase their creativity by participating in an 'I Voted' sticker contest for the upcoming August state primary election and November general election. Birmingham residents can submit their design through the city's public engagement platform, Engage Birmingham, now through May 4, 2026 at bhamgov.org/stickercontest or engage.bhamgov.org/i-voted-sticker-contest.



Submissions must be completed using the official sticker template entry form available on Engage Birmingham and will be accepted in the following age categories: Kindergarten through 8 years; 9-12 years; 13-17 years; and 18+. Parents may submit designs created by their children; one design per artist will be considered. From May 11 through June 15, the community will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite design in each category.

Designs must be nonpartisan, include the phrase 'I Voted', and may be created using the artist's preferred method, such as crayons, markers, colored pencils, paint, etc. Winning designs will be printed on stickers and distributed to voters at the polls during the Aug. 4 and Nov. 3, 2026 elections while supplies last. Winning artists will be recognized in city publications, and provided with a supply of stickers featuring their design. Learn more about the contest and submission requirements at bhamgov.org/stickercontest.

Have fun with your designs and good luck!



BIRMINGHAM
A WALKABLE CITY

**GET
INVOLVED**

JOIN A CITY BOARD

The city is looking for individuals who want to give back to their community by serving on a board or committee. This is your opportunity to make recommendations that shape the city's future! Select a board that fits your skills at bhamgov.org/boardopportunities or click on a board listed below to learn more.



CURRENT OPENINGS

- ✓ [City Commission](#)
- ✓ [Multi-Modal Transportation Board](#)
- ✓ [Planning Board](#)
- ✓ [Advisory Parking Committee](#)
- ✓ [Board of Review](#)
- ✓ [Birmingham Area Cable Board](#)
- ✓ [Martha Baldwin Park Board](#)

LEARN MORE 

See current openings

bhamgov.org/boardopportunities

See all boards & commissions and apply online

bhamgov.org/boards



The United States of America will celebrate the 250th anniversary of its founding on July 4, 2026. During this special year, communities are highlighting the local history that gives them character within the bigger picture of the American story.

Birmingham is hosting special activities with a local history twist—including a new exhibit at the Birmingham Museum—as we celebrate the people and history behind our parks, our downtown, our neighborhoods, our civic heritage, and what gives Birmingham its unique sense of place. Special events and activities are listed at bhamgov.org/250years.



NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM



THEY CHANGED BIRMINGHAM:

George Mitchell (1854-1929) and Almeron Whitehead (1851-1926) – Birmingham's Dynamic Duo



By 1933 Birmingham had transitioned from a small farming village into a city. Two of the men who made this possible were George Mitchell and Almeron [Al-MARE-on] Whitehead. They founded Birmingham's first newspaper, started its first bank, and operated the first telephone exchange in Birmingham. Mitchell and Whitehead weren't just business partners, they were life-long friends.

Almeron Whitehead was the youngest of 9 children born into the prominent Whitehead family in Waterford Township. His eldest sister Isabel married Birmingham merchant John Allen Bigelow. In 1865 Whitehead moved to Birmingham to work at his Bigelow's store. He married Emma Bodine in 1877. They had one child, Raynale, born in 1886. George Mitchell was born in Birmingham in 1854. He attended school here and was taught by Martha Baldwin

(another important Birmingham figure who will be featured in next month's edition of *They Changed Birmingham*). At age 16, Mitchell went to work as a store clerk. He married a local woman, Hannah Cory, in 1877, and they had three children, Carrie, Eugene, and Emmeline.

Mitchell and Whitehead met while clerking at Bigelow's store in 1870. They became fast friends. They were founding members of the club, "The Eccentrics", a social club made up of nine young men in Birmingham. This type of club was common in the late 1800s and popular until the 1920s. At its peak, approximately 40% of American men participated in a social fraternal club, which provided a sense of belonging and stability for people during times of great change. "The Eccentrics" offered members a chance to come together, discuss new ideas, and enjoy each other's company. It was the inspiration for the title of *The Birmingham Eccentric*, the local newspaper Mitchell and Whitehead founded together. In 1878 they purchased a Novelty Printing Press for \$90 (\$2,917.10 in 2026 dollars), and taught themselves how to use it. This involved first setting each individual letter backwards on the press in a special tray; inking it up; placing the paper in the press; and finally squeezing it together. The term "hot off the press" comes from heat needed to get the ink to dry so it wouldn't smudge!

The first edition of *The Eccentric* was published on May 2, 1878. It was only one page with four columns and cost 2 cents. It was published weekly and focused on local news and featured columns submitted by community members. This made *The Eccentric* a forum for the community on local and national issues and had an impact on public opinion. For example, by 1905 the Ladies Literary Society had been advocating for a public library. *The Eccentric* reported on their attempts and published letters from the public on both sides. Allegedly, Mitchell and Whitehead (who supported the library) wrote letters posing as uneducated and illiterate opponents of the library to show the need for it. The paper also stoked debate on women's suffrage, highlighting discussions and supporters of the issue.

NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM (continued)

According to an autobiography by Mitchell, he and Whitehead worked well together and decided to expand their partnership. In 1881 they opened a general store, Whitehead & Mitchell's. The store originally sold groceries, but expanded to include medicine, books, dishware and stationery. The duo expanded again in 1887, opening the Birmingham Exchange Bank, the first bank in Birmingham. Whitehead & Mitchell's became the headquarters for Birmingham's post office, and Mitchell served as postmaster from 1895-1904. In 1910, they became the Birmingham representatives of the new Michigan Telephone Company. They also invested in real estate, buying large lots at auction and reselling them. In 1912 the two decided to split their assets. Whitehead transferred his half of The Eccentric to Mitchell, in exchange for Mitchell's half of the bank. They still co-owned the general store together until they retired in the 1920s.

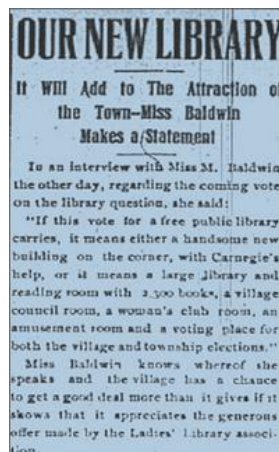
George Mitchell and Almeron Whitehead brought Birmingham into a new century. The pair helped prepare the small village of Birmingham to become the city we know today. They remained close friends until Whitehead died in 1926. Mitchell passed away three years later. They are buried next to each other in Greenwood Cemetery, symbolically continuing their friendship after their deaths.

They Changed Birmingham:

- They used The Birmingham Eccentric to advocate for local issues they found important and helped create a community forum.
- Mitchell and Whitehead founded the first bank in Birmingham in 1887, The Birmingham Exchange bank, which helped Birmingham become an important banking center in the early 20th century.
- They were instrumental in bringing the early telephone to Birmingham. Their general store became the headquarters for Birmingham's first telephone exchange in 1910.
- Whitehead served as Village president from 1895-1898. He was instrumental in getting concrete sidewalks for the town and the installation of the town waterworks.
- Mitchell served as Birmingham's postmaster from 1895-1904, when that role was an important part of the village's communication. This gave him unique access to the latest news in Birmingham.
- Mitchell and Whitehead's support of progressive improvements helped Martha Baldwin create a city ready for the 20th century.



Whitehead and Mitchell's grocery store, c. 1880s. (Birmingham Museum Collection)



An article in *The Eccentric* about the proposal of a public library. (Birmingham Eccentric, 10 Mar 1905, [Bloomfield Township Library](#).)



The nine original members of "The Eccentrics". Mitchell is in the top row, second from the left. Whitehead is in the bottom row in the middle. (Birmingham Museum Collection)

BIRMINGHAM GREEN

BY NICHOLAS J. DUPUIS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

BIRMINGHAM RAIN GARDEN PROGRAM

It is going to take a lot of us to get to [500,000 gallons of stormwater per rain event by 2035](#). One of the tools that the [Birmingham Green: Healthy Climate Plan](#) suggests we use as a City to help meet that goal is a residential rain garden program that supports property owners in locating, designing, and installing rain gardens on their property. If you have been thinking about a rain garden in your yard – you are in luck! The City has developed a Birmingham Rain Garden Program that



will help you do just that. Aside from the design and build of the garden itself, the Birmingham Rain Garden Program contains other resources such as information on how to become a Master Rain Gardener as well as providing access to other local programs such as stormwater utility credits. The Birmingham sustainability team, as always, is ready and willing to help you get started. Visit our [sustainability and climate action webpage](#) to get the Rain Garden Program Guidebook, look for rain garden related events, and other useful information today!

ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Birmingham is undertaking a major update of the Zoning Ordinance with the intent to make the document clearer, more predictable, user-friendly, and aligned with the Birmingham Plan 2040 Master Plan and current planning practices. The new Zoning Ordinance will include zoning and subdivision regulations that promote sustainable development and equitable growth, protect community character, encourage economic development, and support housing and environmental goals.

This project cannot be successful without input from Birmingham residents, business owners and visitors. Community members are encouraged to get involved in the project and provide feedback on their vision for future development and redevelopment in the community. To ensure the city is able to engage as many people as possible, a project webpage has been created at bhamgov.org/zoningordinanceupdate to share information about the Zoning Ordinance update. Coming soon, the page will feature background information, an online questionnaire and details on upcoming events and engagement opportunities. The city will host a series of outreach events and meetings throughout the process.

The first opportunity to participate in the update process in person will be a Project Kick-Off Open House planned on Thursday, April 23, 2026 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Baldwin Public Library. This event will provide an opportunity to learn more about the project purpose and process, and share input on key topics such as the design of new development, housing types, parking, sustainability and more.

Friends of the ROUGE

Spring Bug Hunt

Surveying Since 1998

Become a Rouge Community Scientist!

Do you ever wonder about what lives in the river besides fish and turtles? Come to our 2026 Spring Bug Hunt and see for yourself the amazing variety of aquatic insects, crayfish, snails and clams that make up the bottom of the river food chain. Volunteers visit sites throughout the headwaters of the Rouge watershed and search for aquatic invertebrates. The presence or absence of these streambed creatures gives us valuable data on the quality of the river water and overall habitat.



Spring Bug Hunt

Saturday, April 11, 2026

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Meet at Jack Wilcox Theater, Plymouth
Arts & Recreation Complex - 650 Church
St. Plymouth, MI 48170

Registration Open Until Full

No prior experience needed, but registration is required.
Children eight and older are welcome when
accompanied by a participating adult. Groups of six or
less can sign up together.

Program supported by:



Working together, restoring the river

This program is also supported by Washtenaw County, the City of Southfield, the City of Troy, the Village of Beverly Hills, Northville Township, the City of Plymouth, Plymouth Township, the City of Novi, the City of Livonia, the City of Farmington, the city of Birmingham, the State of Michigan and U.S. EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, donations and memberships.



Register Now



TheRouge.org/Bug-Hunts

Questions? Email Monitoring Manager,
Lauren at leaton@therouge.org

St. James and Kenning Park Improvement Project

Public Workshop #1
April 14, 2026 4 - 6 PM at
851 Eton Street

We're reimagining St. James and Kenning Park to better serve our community. Meet the designers and share your ideas at the public workshop!

Can't make it? Visit the [project webpage](https://bhamgov.org/stjamesandkenningproject) at bhamgov.org/stjamesandkenningproject for other ways to participate!





STORMWATER EDUCATION

Earth Day Event

Beneath Linden Park there's an important stormwater system at work.

Celebrate Earth Day with Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash, City of Birmingham Mayor Clinton Baller, and Friends of the Rouge for a hands-on, family-friendly Earth Day event.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18,
NOON TO 3 P.M.

**LINDEN PARK,
BIRMINGHAM**

**Hot dogs grilled by Commissioner Nash
for the first 200 guests**

**Go on a bug hunt and explore
nature up close**

**See how stormwater moves through our
community, and why it matters**

Questions? Email wrc@oakgov.com for more information.



TRANSFORM OUR PARKS DONATE NOW



Looking for a way to volunteer your time to improve a city park? Searching for a gift for the person who has everything? Seeking to memorialize a loved one? Consider a donation of time or funds to Birmingham Parks and Recreation!

It's easier than ever with the city's new streamlined community donation platform. Learn more and donate online at bhamgov.org/donate today!

[BHAMGOV.ORG/DONATE](https://bhamgov.org/donate)

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

INVASIVE SPECIES THREATS – SPOTTED LANTERNFLY

What: Spotted lanternfly (SLF) is an invasive forest pest insect that feeds on more than 70 host species of trees, vines and other woody plants. SLF can damage trees and is also a threat to fruit crops due to the honeydew and mold it can produce from feeding which can attract other unwanted pests and disease.

Where: Spotted lanternfly is native to southeast Asia and was first discovered in the United States in Pennsylvania in 2014, and has since spread as an invasive species to at least 19 states (including Michigan) and the District of Columbia.

When: Spotted lanternfly was first discovered in Oakland County in 2021, and it has since spread to multiple other counties. Dept. of Public Services staff members trapped a Spotted lanternfly in Birmingham by the railroad tracks in fall 2025.

Why: SLF prefers Tree-of-heaven (an invasive tree species that is on the City's prohibited species list), but it also will feed on dozens of other tree species such as black walnut, river birch, willow, sumac and red maple, all of which can be readily found throughout the city on private and public property. SLF does not directly cause rapid tree death (such as Emerald Ash Borer), however, it creates a sticky substance called honeydew, which can collect on the ground and result in the growth of sooty mold. Sooty mold can discolor and kill plants, as well as create a foul odor. Both honeydew and sooty mold can attract other unwanted pests.

Recommended Action: If you believe you have discovered a spotted lanternfly or SLF egg mass, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) advises residents to take a photo and report it on their [Eyes in the Field website](#). Once a photo is taken, you can squish the nymph or adult SLF or scrape the egg mass off of the tree (or surface it was found) and crush it up or soak it in rubbing alcohol.



PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

INVASIVE SPECIES - BOX TREE MOTH

What: Box tree moth (BTM) is an invasive forest pest insect that feeds on boxwoods and box tree species, causing rapid defoliation and plant death if left untreated. The caterpillars can have up to four generations per year, which means prolonged and persistent pesticide use is often required to control them.

Where: Native to east Asia, box tree moth has been spreading rapidly throughout many cities in Oakland County and feeding on boxwood shrubs, which are readily used in ornamental landscaping throughout Michigan. They can fly and spread up to 5 miles per year, making the containment of the spread very difficult and hard to prevent. BTM has been extremely invasive in Canada, and they have also reportedly destroyed approximately 75% of the boxwoods throughout Europe where restrictions on pesticide use and availability are much stricter than in the United States.

When: Box tree moth was first discovered in Michigan in May 2021, where it is believed to have been imported along with an infected crop from Ontario, Canada. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has since initiated a quarantine of all Buxus species in 13 counties – including Oakland – and does not allow for them to be moved outside of the quarantined area.

Why: Boxwood shrubs are a non-native species which are heavily used in ornamental landscaping throughout Birmingham, both on private and public property. Signs of BTM infestation have already been observed on multiple private properties and at Greenwood Cemetery. If left untreated, boxwoods can be defoliated by the multiple generations of caterpillars annually, and the bark can also be attacked which will cause eventual if not immediate shrub death.

Recommended Action: Monitor your boxwood shrubs to detect the signs and symptoms of BTM as soon as possible so that an infested branch off or removing a shrub could potentially be enough to stop their spread. If you find advanced signs of BTM on your property, multiple pesticide applications are typically necessary to control them to save the plant. If pesticides are used improperly, it can have negative effects on pollinators and other beneficial insects, so usage should be limited as much as possible. Always follow the instructions on the label.

If plants are significantly damaged, removal and replacement with a species not susceptible to box tree moth is recommended. Strongly consider planting an alternative to boxwood such as yews (*Taxus* spp.) or inkberry holly (*Ilex glabra*). Box tree moth is already known to be highly invasive in Oakland County and its presence no longer needs to be reported on the MDNR.



Photo from the MDNR website

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

PETER COTTON TRAIL EVENT DRAWS CROWDS TO BOOTH PARK

Thanks to all who joined the fun at Birmingham's first Peter Cotton Trail event on Saturday, March 28 in Booth Park! We especially appreciate the support of Peter Cotton Trail premier sponsor, [Goldfish Swim School Birmingham!](#)



PUBLIC SERVICES NEWS

BIRMINGHAM RECOGNIZED AS TREE CITY OF THE WORLD



The City of Birmingham has been named a 2025 Tree City of the World by the [Arbor Day Foundation](#) and the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (FAO), recognizing the city's ongoing commitment to urban forestry and environmental stewardship.

Birmingham is one of 3 Michigan municipalities to earn the honor, joining 60 other communities in the United States. A total of 283 communities in 24 countries were

recognized as [Tree Cities of the World](#) in 2025. The designation highlights cities that prioritize planting, maintaining and protecting trees to enhance community livability and sustainability.

Congratulations to the Department of Public Services parks and [forestry](#) division, including our seven certified arborists (six are pictured above), and the entire crew who care for the approximately 25,000 park and street trees that make up Birmingham's urban forest. Thanks for all your hard work!

YARD WASTE COLLECTION BEGINS APRIL 1

Seasonal curbside yard waste collection has begun as of April 1! Please place yard waste in kraft-style paper bags or trash containers with a "yard waste" decal sticker attached. Plastic bags are not accepted.

Yard waste stickers are available in a literature rack on the City Clerk counter in City Hall, or from the Department of Public Services at dps@bhamgov.org and (248) 530-1700.

For more information, see yard waste guidelines at bhamgov.org/yardwaste and these [helpful guidelines](#) from [SOCRRA](#).



SPRING GOLF NEWS

LINCOLN HILLS GOLF COURSE IS OPEN!

[Lincoln Hills Golf Course](#) is open as of Wednesday, April 1, with [Springdale Golf Course](#) tentatively scheduled to open Monday, April 13, weather permitting. Rated as two of the top nine-hole golf courses in Oakland County, both offer courses that are picturesque, challenging and fun for all ages.

Every golfer needs an [annual membership pass](#) to play the city's two award-winning nine-hole municipal courses. Residents pay \$25 for a new membership or \$20 for an annual renewal. Non-resident and business memberships are also available.

[Tee times](#) can be made up to one week in advance by calling Lincoln Hills at (248) 530-1670 or Springdale at (248) 530-1660.

For information about [greens fees](#), membership applications and much more, see bhamgov.org/golf.



MEET AUSTIN WALKER, NEW GOLF MANAGER



The City of Birmingham is excited to introduce Austin Walker, our new golf manager! Austin comes to us from Lakes of Taylor Golf Club in Taylor, Mich., and replaces former golf manager Jacky Brito, who retired over the winter.

A graduate of Western Michigan University with a degree in sports management, Austin has 15 years of experience in the golf industry, both working and playing the sport. His professional career started at Gull Lake View Golf Resort in Richland, Mich., handling marketing, lodging sales and clubhouse management. In 2022, he moved closer to home to become assistant golf operations at Lakes of Taylor Golf Club in Taylor, Mich. In his spare time during the summer, Austin likes to golf with friends and family and boat on Lake St. Clair. In the winter, he enjoys playing hockey several times a week.

Look for Austin around Lincoln Hills and Springdale and say hello!

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS

SPONSOR THE 2026 IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES

Sponsorships are still available for Birmingham's [In The Park summer concert series](#), which includes weekly shows across a full spectrum of musical genres on Wednesday evenings from June 17 through Aug. 26!

A highlight of Birmingham's summer, the series brings the community together to enjoy live music in the beautiful surroundings of [Shain Park](#). Your sponsorship helps this cherished event continue to thrive, offering free entertainment for all ages while gaining meaningful visibility for your business or family!

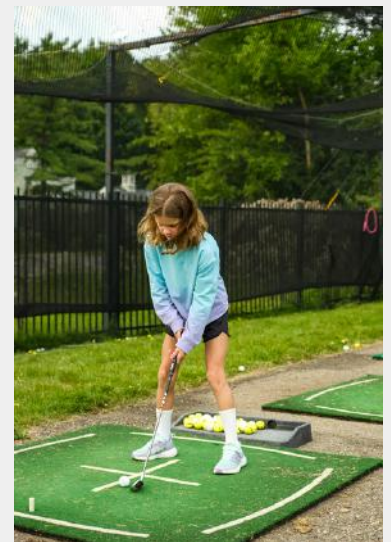
Select from [four sponsorship levels](#) ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 for the season. Benefits include recognition on event signage, cable broadcasts and more. Sponsors contributing \$1,000 or more also get a display table at each event with an option to hand out promotional materials. Learn more about sponsorships and reserve yours at bhamgov.org/donate by May 15! Contact Clinise Kirkwood with questions at (248) 530-1651.



JUNIOR GOLF REGISTRATION OPENS MAY 2

Birmingham's popular [Junior Golf Program](#) returns to [Lincoln Hills](#) from June 15 through July 31 this year. Golfers ages 6 to 16 can learn golf fundamentals and improve skills through a variety of instruction options.

Registration opens on Saturday, May 2 and is online only. Birmingham residents and current city golf members can register early and receive a discount from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. At 11 a.m., registration opens to everyone and the early registration discount is no longer available to residents and members. Online registration links will be active [here](#) only during the active registration period and until classes are full.



See the 2026 [Junior Golf brochure](#) for additional program details, schedules and registration information.

ORDINANCE REMINDERS

SPRINGTIME DOG WALKING REMINDERS

As you and your furry friend get outdoors for springtime fun, please consider the following pet safety ordinances:



- All dogs must be on a chain or leash of 6 feet or less and under reasonable control of a person at all times. This also applies in Birmingham parks except the [Lincoln Hills Dog Park](#) (see below).
- Owners cannot allow animals to deposit fecal matter in any place other than the premises where the animal is harbored or kept, unless it is immediately collected and removed. Please remember dog waste should be collected with a bag and disposed of in your garbage container, not your yard waste bin.
- No person shall harbor or keep any dog which, by loud or frequent or habitual barking, yelping or howling, causes a serious annoyance to the neighborhood, or to people passing on the street.
- Puppies and kittens four months old and older and are available in three durations: one year for \$15; two years for \$20 and three years for \$25. Pet licenses expire with the expiration of your pet's rabies vaccination, and can be purchased [online](#), by mail or in person at the [clerk's office](#). You'll need to provide a photo or copy of your proof of residency, your pet's valid rabies certificate and a check (if not paying online).

Birmingham's [dog park](#), located at the southeast edge of Lincoln Hills Golf Course, offers a secure place for dogs to play off leash. Dogs must be [licensed](#) and have a current rabies vaccination. Park users may apply and pay an annual fee for a key fob (\$50 for residents; \$200 for non-residents). Temporary one-week passes are available for visitors and those who want to try the park before purchasing an annual pass. Learn more at [bhamgov.org/dogpark](#).

For more information about Birmingham's dog ordinances, visit [bhamgov.org/petregulations](#).

DON'T FORGET YOUR EMPTY TRASH CANS

Just a reminder that Birmingham city code requires that empty refuse containers and recycling bins be removed from the street no later than 24 hours after trash pickup. Visit [bhamgov.org/trashordinance](#) to view the entire solid waste collection and disposal ordinance. (Sec. 90 -28)

NEWS FROM THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

SPONSOR, MARCH OR VOLUNTEER IN MAY 17 PARADE & PARTY!

Each year, the [Celebrate Birmingham Hometown Parade and Party](#) brings the community together. This year, come be part of it on Sunday, May 17 from 1 to 4 p.m.!

Whether your organization [joins the parade](#), hosts a hands-on activity during the after party or becomes an official sponsor, every contribution helps make this event fun, inclusive and unforgettable for Birmingham families.

Want to participate in the parade, party or both? Registration for participants is free! Simply provide a child-friendly craft or interactive activity in [Shain Park](#) during the event, or sign up your group to walk in the parade.

[Sponsorship opportunities](#) are also available! Packages range from \$100 to \$3,500 and offer varying levels of recognition, from inclusion on website and printed materials to event-day visibility in Shain Park. Presenting Sponsors enjoy premium recognition plus onsite space and branding opportunities.

Questions? Contact the City Clerk's Office at (248) 530-1880 or clerksoffice@bhamgov.org.



NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

SEVERE WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

Severe weather is a regular part of life in Michigan, especially during the spring and summer months. Thunderstorms, tornadoes, heavy rain and strong winds can develop quickly and create dangerous conditions. Follow these steps to keep you and your family safe when severe weather strikes.



- First, stay informed. Monitor local weather reports through television, radio, trusted weather apps or a NOAA Weather Radio. Pay close attention to watches and warnings issued by weather officials. A watch means conditions are favorable for severe weather, while a warning means dangerous weather is occurring or imminent and immediate action is needed.
- If a tornado warning is issued, seek shelter immediately. The safest place is a basement or storm shelter. If a basement is not available, go to a small interior room on the lowest level of your home, such as a bathroom, hallway or closet. Stay away from windows and cover your head and neck with your arms, a blanket or mattress for added protection.
- During severe thunderstorms, move indoors and avoid using electrical appliances or plumbing, as lightning can travel through wiring and pipes. Secure outdoor objects that could become dangerous in strong winds.
- Flooding is another major risk during severe storms. Never attempt to drive through flooded roads. Even a small amount of moving water can sweep a vehicle away. Remember the safety rule: "Turn around, don't drown."
- Prepare an emergency kit. Include items such as bottled water, nonperishable food, flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit, medications and phone chargers.
- Ensure everyone in your household knows your emergency plan and where to take shelter.
- Severe weather can happen at any time. By staying informed, preparing in advance and acting quickly when warnings are issued, you can help protect yourself, your family and your community.

Contact the Birmingham Fire Department at (248) 530-1900 if you have questions or would like additional information.



NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

FIRE HYDRANT FLOW TESTING THIS MONTH

The Birmingham Fire Department will conduct its annual fire hydrant flow testing on hydrants throughout the city between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on April 7, 8 and 28, weather permitting.



Flow testing measures the flow pressure and volume of water that is expected from each hydrant. It also reveals hydrants with mechanical problems. Flow testing is one way the city ensures hydrants are operable and provide the proper water flow when needed. Testing is being performed during the day to determine and indicate the available water supply during a time of ordinary demand, per guidance from the National Fire Protection Association.

Please note: flow testing may cause water to appear rust colored. This condition does not pose a health problem. If you experience rust-colored water, normal running of COLD water will soon clear the water. Please run only the cold water and keep it running for at least five minutes after it runs clear. Do not use hot water until after the cold water runs clear to prevent rusty water from entering your hot water tank.

If rusty water affects your laundry, purchase oxalic acid or commercial products for removing rust from clothes at a grocery store, drugstore or hardware store. Follow the product instructions for rewashing the clothes to remove the rust color.

The Birmingham Fire Department appreciates your patience as they work to ensure the safety of Birmingham residents. For more information, visit bhamgov.org/hydrants or contact the fire department at (248) 530-1906.





SPRING STROLL

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2026

[Register to participate](#) in the free Spring Stroll event featuring local retailers, with special giveaways and shopping incentives! The event will take place throughout Downtown Birmingham on Saturday, April 11 from 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., with staggered start times. Attendees are invited to visit participating retailers, collect giveaways and complete an activity sheet, which may be returned for a prize.

Find more information on this event and others at downtownbirmingham.com/events.





BIRMINGHAM FARMERS MARKET

**OPENING DAY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, MAY 3
660 N. OLD WOODWARD AVENUE**

Join us as we officially kick off the Farmers Market season with the Opening Day Celebration on May 3! We have an exciting day planned with over 50 local vendors selling Michigan-grown produce, meat and dairy, floral arrangements, plants, artisan goods and more. There is also live music, food trucks, crafts for kids and other festivities. Free reusable totes will be distributed to market attendees throughout the event (while supplies last).

The market will be open every Sunday, May 3 through October 25, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

For more information and special events schedule, visit downtownbirmingham.com/FarmersMarket, like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Instagram](#). See you at the market!



As always, parking is convenient and free for the first two hours in all five municipal garages downtown. For more information, visit www.downtownbirmingham.com, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to [Birmingham Shopping District enews](#).



WELCOME, NEW BUSINESSES

rag & bone

106 SOUTH OLD WOODWARD AVENUE

rag & bone offers timeless clothing and modern essentials for men and women. Visit their [website](#) to learn more.



Photo from rag & bone's website.





BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

APRIL NEWS FROM THE BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

Check out all of the exciting events happening this month at baldwinlib.org/calendar.

[Community and Resource Engagement \(CaRE\) Fair – April 11, 11am-1pm](#)

Drop in for this open-house style volunteer match event to speak with representatives from local organizations seeking volunteers. Learn more about their missions, activities, and volunteer opportunities in the library service area and neighboring communities.



Download the new library app!

Available in the App Store or Google Play store, the mobile app allows you to search the library's catalog, manage holds, make lists, and find direct links to the library's databases, ebook services, and social media accounts.

[Let's Go Birding](#)

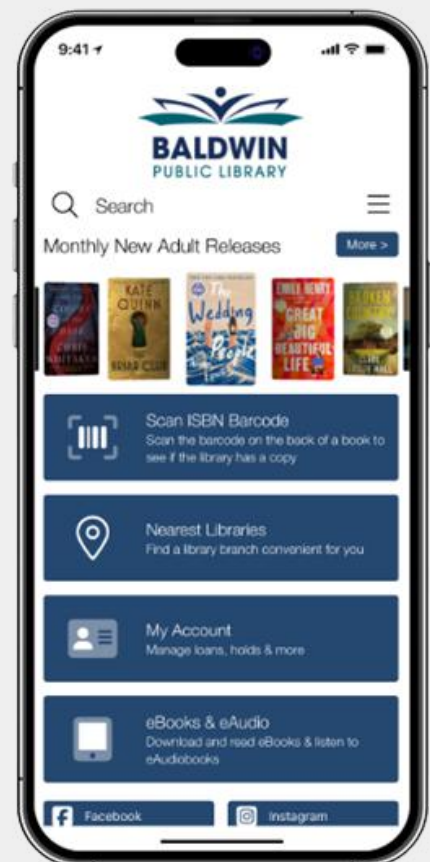
April 6, 2026, 7-8 p.m.

"Let's Go Birding" is a followup to Greg Bodker's well received Birdwatching vs Birding program. The "Let's Go Birding" program uses different photos, videos, and stories to prepare the audience to go on a birding adventure in the field.

[After-Hours Hide & Seek for Teens Grades 7-12](#)

April 10, 2026, 7-9 p.m.

Play different versions of hide and seek throughout the library after we close to the public. Pizza will be served. Registration and permission form required.



Baldwin Public Library is located at 300 W. Merrill Street in Birmingham. For more information visit www.baldwinlib.org or call (248) 647-1700. The library will be closed on Sunday, April 5.



Volunteer Expo

Thursday, April 23 from 1:00 - 2:30 pm

You are invited to attend Next's Volunteer Expo, where you will have the opportunity to hear from different businesses and non-profit organizations, explore their volunteer options, and hopefully, sign up with one or more of them! This is a great way to connect those with a passion for service (you!) with a variety of worthy organizations in the community who are looking for help.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

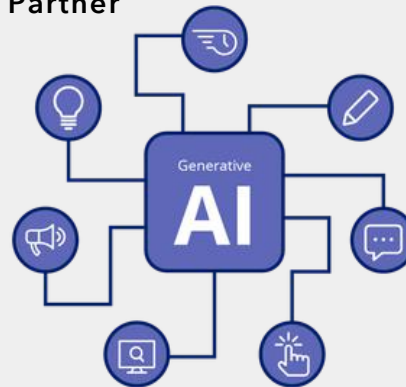


Understanding Generative AI - Your New Creative Partner

Tuesday, April 21 at 1:00 pm

Karen McDevitt, Associate Professor,
Wayne State University Media Arts

This program will explore the basics of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), from its fascinating capabilities like creating art and writing, to providing personal assistance (Siri! Alexa!). [Follow this link to register.](#)



Advanced Spanish Conversation for Cognitive Well-Being On-going Wednesdays at 4 p.m.

This course is designed to provide a stimulating and engaging environment for individuals interested in learning Spanish while promoting cognitive health. Through interactive conversation activities, this course aims to enhance mental agility, memory and linguistic skills, all while fostering social connections and cultural understanding. [Follow this link to register.](#)



Next proudly serves the growing 50-plus population in our community. Next is located at 2121 Midvale Street in Birmingham. Contact Next at (248) 203-5270, visit www.BirminghamNext.org or [like Next on Facebook](#).





CITY COMMISSION GOALS

ENGAGED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITY → Birmingham is a community that is connected to one another and engaged in the decision making process

- Bridge the divide that Woodward Avenue creates in the City and transform the Woodward environment
- Offer City services and amenities that enrich the lives of residents of all ages
- Encourage robust resident engagement with their government and community
- Increase connectivity between the Rouge River trail system, downtown, and the neighborhoods

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY → The City of Birmingham positions itself for a changing future by instituting policies and practices that protect the natural environment and reduce extreme weather impacts on the community

- Create a sustainability board to review projects, investigate funding opportunities, and offer public education opportunities
- Maintain and upgrade infrastructure to prepare for future climate conditions
- Modernize City facilities for energy efficiency and sustainability

EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES → Birmingham will address the needs of the community in a timely and respectful manner

- Incorporate new technologies to improve service delivery for residents including digitization of public records and museum materials
- Build and retain an effective and professional staff who serve the community
- Create community risk reduction policies and programs that emphasize citywide increased safety and security

Connect With Us

DIRECT EMAIL, NOTIFICATIONS, FORMS AND PUBLIC SAFETY ALERTS

- [City Communications](#)
- [Constant Contact](#) — Subscribe to receive emails about topics of interest.
- [Agendas & Minutes e-Notify](#) — Receive an email or text when agendas and minutes have been posted.
- [Nixle Public Alert System](#) — Alerts from the police & fire departments
- [City Forms & Payments](#)
- [Crime map](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook

- [City of Birmingham](#)
- [Birmingham Police Department](#)
- [Birmingham Fire Department](#)
- [The Birmingham Museum](#)
- [Birmingham Shopping District](#)
- [Birmingham Farmers Market](#)

Instagram

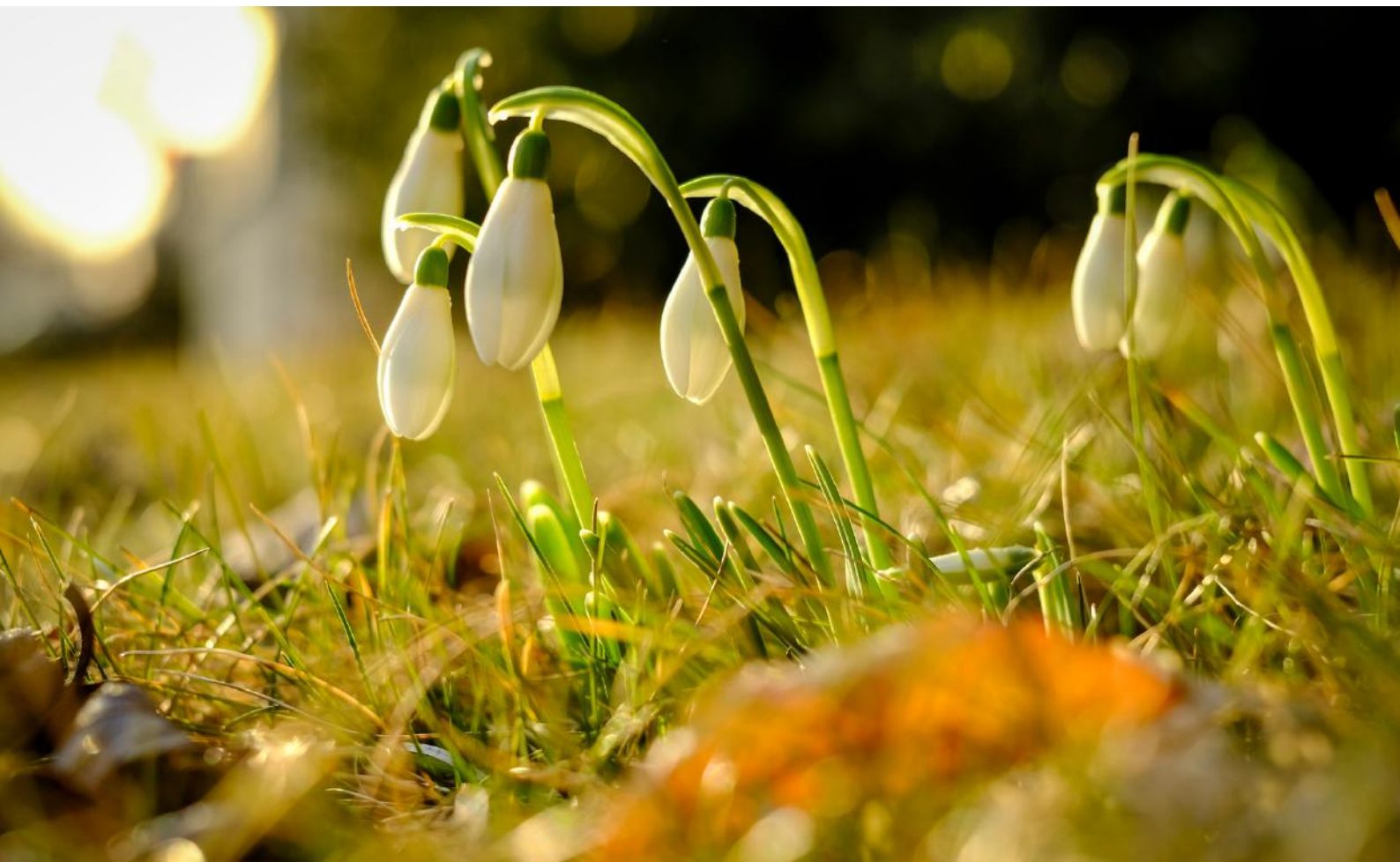
- [City of Birmingham](#)
- [Birmingham Police Department](#)
- [The Birmingham Museum](#)
- [Birmingham Shopping District](#)
- [Birmingham Farmers Market](#)

X (formerly Twitter)

- [Birmingham Police Department](#)
- [Birmingham Shopping District](#)

Nextdoor

[City of Birmingham Nextdoor Page](#)





BIRMINGHAM

Contact Us

Birmingham City Hall.....	248.530.1800
Birmingham Museum.....	248.530.1682
Birmingham Shopping District.....	248.530.1200
Building Department.....	248.530.1850
City Clerk.....	248.530.1880
City Manager.....	248.530.1808
Communications.....	248.530.1812
Dept. of Public Services.....	248.530.1700
Engineering.....	248.530.1840
Finance.....	248.530.1820
Fire Department.....	248.530.1901
Human Resources.....	248.530.1810
Planning Department.....	248.530.1850
Police Department.....	248.530.1870
Treasurer's Office.....	248.530.1890