



MAYOR  
**WILLIAM R. WILD**



CityofWestland.com

For Immediate Release

August 24, 2021

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## **Westland Fire Department Launches Program to Aid Local Small Business**

**Westland, MI (August 24, 2021)** -On Wednesday, August 25, the *Westland Fire Administration Public Awareness Committee* will host an official kickoff of their *Small Business Assistance Program*. The kickoff event will take place at 10:00 a.m. at the Ralph Savini Fire Station, located at 35701 Central City Parkway. The event will feature comments from Westland Mayor William R. Wild, Fire Chief James Morris, Fire Marshall Kelly Eggers, President and CEO of the Westland Chamber of Commerce Gretchen Heinicke and Westland business owners who will benefit from the newly implemented *Small Business Assistance Program*.

In June of 2020 The City of Westland implemented a small business grant program "*Westland CARES*" to assist struggling business owners and their employees. Mayor Wild's "Compassionate City Initiative" together with Federal funds acquired under the CARES Act awarded forty-nine local businesses grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000 in order to help keep the doors open and their employees paid during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The City of Westland Fire Department's *Westland Fire Administration Public Awareness Committee* was dedicated to enhancing the administration's efforts, to further assist these businesses," commented Westland Fire Marshall, Kelly Eggers.

The nonprofit organization hosted a summer raffle raising \$10,000. The funds will be used to service the forty-nine businesses that were awarded grant monies as well as the community's four bowling facilities fire safety components.

"These services can typically cost the business owners anywhere from a couple hundred dollars to several thousand dollars annually depending on the type of occupancy and their associated fire protection systems," Fire Chief James Morris added.

"The COVID-19 virus has significantly impacted all of our lives this past year," commented Mayor William R. Wild. "The statewide closings and government implemented restrictions have drastically affected the ability of small business owners to pay ongoing expenses."

After the official kick off, the Public Awareness Committee will be servicing the occupancy's fire extinguishers, emergency exit lighting, and fire suppression systems making the businesses fire safe and code compliant for one year.

To make the raised dollars stretch, Fire Administration has teamed up with a local service provider Quality Fire.

"On behalf of the Westland Chamber of Commerce Members and the Westland Business Community, I would like to thank the City of Westland, Mayor Wild and his Administration, the Westland Fire Department and the Westland Community for their continued support of our Westland businesses, especially these past 17 months," commented Chamber CEO, Gretchen Heinicke.

"Westland is committed to continuing to assist our local business community through these difficult times and we are very grateful to the *Westland Fire Administration's Public Awareness Committee* for their compassion and support," Wild concluded.

**Who:** Westland Fire Administration Public Awareness Committee, City of Westland Administration, Westland Chamber of Commerce

**What:** Press Conference and Kick Off of Small Business Assistance Program

**When:** Wednesday, August 25 at 10 a.m.

**Where:** Ralph Savini Fire Station (37501 Central City Parkway)

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Westland, Michigan is the state's 10<sup>th</sup> largest municipality, with a population of over 84,000.

Westland has been recognized as one of 24/7 Wall Street's America's Best 50 Cities to Live, offering residents and visitors an ideal blend of single – family affordable homes, apartments and condominiums, great schools, and access to numerous outdoor activities. Public safety is delivered by full-service, professional law enforcement and firefighting personnel.

Westland is well known as a premier destination for shopping and dining in Wayne County with hundreds of shops and restaurants anchored by the Westland shopping Center, one of the country's original four regional malls.

The City is served by two public school districts. Wayne-Westland Community Schools serving 12,000 youth was recently named one of the best schools in Michigan by WXYZ-TV and is the proud recipient of 14 Golden Apple and two Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School Awards. Livonia Public Schools, educating nearly 15,000 students, is proud of their MEAP/MME scores that exceed State averages and the district has also earned Golden Apple and Michigan Blue Ribbon Exemplary School awards.

The City provides competitive incentives for those who are interested in investing in Westland, making it one of the hottest investment markets in the region. Westland's Fast-Track to Business Team, which consists of key decision makers who work diligently to "cut the red tape" and expedite the approval process for new business development.