



Memorandum

To: Mayor Schreiber and City Council Members

From: Ralph A. Lange
Ralph A. Lange, City Manager

Date: September 27, 2013

Subject: Council Information Letter

***CITY MANAGER**

Action & Request Center Report:

Following is an update of the Action Center support tickets. Since the last CIL, (August 29, 2013) 17 online support tickets were opened:

- ✓ 10 Closed
- ✓ 0 In Progress
- ✓ 7 Open

Special Events Policy Forum

On September 26, 2013, city officials held a Special Events Policy Forum that was hosted by the Ypsilanti Convention & Visitors Bureau. Several of the cities' largest event organizers were in attendance to give input and suggestions to the proposed Special Events Policy and online application form. Many comments and suggestions from the forum are currently being researched and implemented into the policy.

MML Conference

The annual Michigan Municipal League Conference took place September 17-20 in Detroit. The City sent two administrative officials and two elected officials to the conference. The general and breakout sessions provided to be fantastic training and dialogue. We received up-to-date state and federal legislative updates. And most notably, we were able to network with other local officials who have brought successful initiatives to their communities. We look forward to exploring many of the ideas and recommendations that were presented at the MML conference.

Leadership AY2 Program

Congratulations to Assistant to the City Manager, Ericka Savage, for being accepted to the 2013-2014 A2Y Leaders Class, through the Ann Arbor Ypsilanti Regional Chamber of Commerce. During this 10 month curriculum, Ms. Savage will be provided with leadership training as well as networking opportunities with other local leaders.

DDA Move into City Hall

Tim Colbeck and Andrew Hellenga moved their office to City Hall on Tuesday, September 17th. Tim's new number is 734-482-9762 and Andrew's is 734-482-9623.

Skateboard Park Update

Please see attached

Michigan Avenue Road Diet

The Washtenaw County Road Commission was funded to mill and fill the section of Michigan Avenue just west of the city limits. As part of this project, the four lane road will be re-striped/marked to make it a three lane road, one lane in each section, a center turn lane and two bike lanes. This project was scheduled to end at the city's west city limit. After an expedited negotiation with the Washtenaw County Road Commission and discussion with the Mayor and City Councilperson and the Director of Public Services, it was determined that we would continue this project minus the mill and fill work through the West Ainsworth intersection for a cost of less than \$9,000.

CLERK'S OFFICE

Staff successfully issued residential parking permits for this year.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Program – The 2013 Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Program will resume in October 2013.

Adopt a Park Program - Council amended the 2013-2014 budgets to include \$12,000 for improvements to the City's tot lots. Staff will work with the appropriate adopt-a-park groups to upgrade and repair play equipment in the tot lots.

Pavement Maintenance Program – In-house crack sealing will resume in Area Five in October. Crack sealing will resume immediately following the completion of catch basin repairs.

Street Capital Improvement Plan – The Grove Road project is now fully complete and open for traffic. The Grove Road Project started on July 9th. The wear or top coat of asphalt paving was completed on Thursday, September 19, 2013 with final striping completed on Monday, September 23th. Restoration of the margin areas began on Monday, September 23rd.

Penn Dam – Mr. Kirton received an e-mail from Luke Trumble, P.E., MDEQ Water Resources Division, Hydrologic Studies and Dam Safety Unit, informing the City that the dam safety inspection of Peninsular Dam was completed. Preliminary reports indicate that the dam is safe. A written report with maintenance recommendation will follow. The city also received a proposal from Stantec for a detailed condition assessment of the Peninsular Dam. Mr. Kirton has also requested a proposal from OHM for a detailed condition assessment since they have a staff person that used to work for Stantec who is very familiar with the Penn Dam. Funds have been appropriated in the 2013-2014 FY Budget to conduct an in-depth study of the spillway and other areas requiring damming of the river.

Transportation Asset Management- City staff, along with OHM, reviewed the most current crash data for the City provided by WATS and determined that the intersection of Michigan Ave. and Prospect Road may be a candidate for safety funds to enhance the signals in the intersection. Staff would propose to add left turn arrows on Michigan Ave.

Rutherford Pool Project -The construction began on June 26th with mobilization and soil erosion measures put in place. The pool floors and walls have poured and completed. The next phase includes welding the stainless steel gutters in place followed by the necessary plumbing for the filtration and heating systems

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Staff completed Fire Protection Report for eligibility of grant from the State of Michigan. They also prepared and mailed the Rutherford Pool Request for reimbursement #2. The total amount sent to State of Michigan for reimbursement to date was \$232,382.34 but they are still awaiting payment.

The City has completed 90% of the audit schedules and spreadsheets.

Staff will be submitting to State of Michigan EVIP FY 2014 Category 1- Accountability and Transparency requirements on Friday, September 27, 2013.

City Assessor completed OPRA assessment for the Smith Building, Club Divine and Elbow Room. She is also currently working on 18 appraisals for the Michigan Tax Tribunal with November 2013 court date.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Approximately 100 candidates applied for the position of Firefighter EMT. We are in the process of establishing a list for hiring.

The Fire Chief was appointed as a member of the Washtenaw County Homeland Security Task Force by the Washtenaw county Mutual-aid Association of Fire Chiefs.

The Fire Department tentative agreement is in the process of going before the union for approval this coming weekend.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

New Hires/Separations:

Mary Kornacki was hired on August 23, 2013, as a temporary Human Resources Generalist until an intern can be found. Stephen Koren was separated from the Police Department on September 9, 2013.

Record Clerk Debbie Vance will be retiring after a long and distinguished 26 year career with the city on September 27, 2013. Wendy Estey is replacing Ms. Vance as the new Records Clerk.

Chief Walker is retiring after 26 years in law enforcement. Chief Walker's last day will be October 11, 2013. Deputy Chief DeGiusti will be the Interim Chief of Police.

Negotiations:

The Fire Department Tentative Agreement is in the process of going before the union for approval.

Miscellaneous:

Job Posting for Police Chief Opening

Flu Shot Fair was held on Thursday, September 26, 2013 at the Senior Center

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Thompson Block

Staff has met on categorizing the Thompson Block as dangerous and will be following up with formal noticing and inspections in the next few weeks.

Shape Ypsi update

Master Plan public hearing and adoption scheduled for Wed., Oct. 17, at next regular planning commission meeting. Final input needed to Teresa by this Friday.

Zoning Charrette begins on Monday Oct. 7 through Thurs. Oct. 10. The first day will include a "code tour" will provide hands-on understanding of how a form-based zoning code would be applied in Ypsilanti. I hope that council will be able to attend, and encourage their residents to do so as well. More details and a flier will be sent separately.

5th Annual Ypsilanti Open House

This annual event is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. About 20 houses currently listed for sale will be open for house hunters to look through and learn about the neighborhood. There are two new features – a new starting spot at The Eyrie, 9 E. Cross in Depot Town, as well as the addition of a Historic home guide from the Historical Foundation at the open house at 302 N. Park Street. A flier is attached, but more information can be found on the website: www.openhouse.ypsi.com. Maps of the houses available will be online the Thursday/Friday before the event.

Eastern Michigan University top programs Summary

Previously the City had inquired with Leigh Greden of EMU on talking points related to EMU's key programs. Please see below for more information.

Enrollment

The fall freshmen enrollment is at approx. 2,850 -- the largest in the university's 164-year history. (We'll enroll about 4,800 new students overall, but the rest are non-freshmen transfer students).

Top Majors / Programs

The College of Arts & Sciences remains the biggest, but our College of Health & Human Services is growing fast. Here are enrolled credit hours to date for Fall 2013

Arts & Sciences = 148,068

Health & Human Services = 28,193

Business = 24,588

Education = 18,385

Technology = 14,482

Our top five undergraduate majors from the April 2013 graduating class:

1. Psychology
2. Management
3. Social Work
4. Communications
5. Marketing

Our top five graduate-level degrees from the April 2013 graduating class:

1. Human Resource/Organizational Development
2. K-12 Administration
3. Technology Studies
4. Business Administration
5. Information Systems (tied with Quality Management)

Some of our premiere new and existing programs are:

- EMU will open our **Physician Assistant** graduate program in Fall 2014. St. Joe's will be our medical center partner. <http://www.emich.edu/chhs/hphp/pa/>
- The **Information Assurance** program trains students in cybersecurity. We're a National Security Agency (yes, that NSA) Center of Excellence. <http://www.emich.edu/ia/>
- **Nursing** is always a hot field. We are particularly proud of our RN-to-BSN program that offers nurses who already have their RN (associate's degree) a bachelor's of science in nursing degree (BSN). <https://www.emich.edu/chhs/nursing/>

Our **Gaming Design** program is a niche area that serves.

Zoning Charrette

Ms. Gillotti stated that the flier will be put in council members' mailbox and a link to this will be emailed to forward to constituents.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Activity Report

Statistics for the current period reflected by the past three months with 7 days left September.

<u>September Reporting Period</u>	<u>August Reporting Period</u>	<u>July Reporting Period</u>
1204 Calls for Service	1459 Calls for Service	1347 Calls for Service
124 Arrests	118 Arrests	136 Arrests
165 Tickets Issued	188 Tickets Issued	247 Tickets Issued
219 Case Reports Written	286 Case Reports Written	279 Case Reports Written

Note: The above "Tickets Issued" statistics reflects the total number of actual charges from each ticket issued - which includes traffic and non-traffic tickets, ordinance tickets, and warning notices.

CoPAC is sponsoring an Open House for the Police Department, Saturday October 5, 2013 from 11am to 1pm.

RAL/ns

Skateboarders build thriving skate park in Ypsilanti's Prospect Park



Eli Stevick skates a newly completed concrete long China bank at Prospect Park. (*Tom Perkins | For The Ann Arbor News*)

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By Tom Perkins | Special to The Ann Arbor News
on September 27, 2013 at 5:23 AM

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Three years ago, an abandoned tennis court in Ypsilanti's **Prospect Park** sat netless and unused save for a few games of roller hockey.

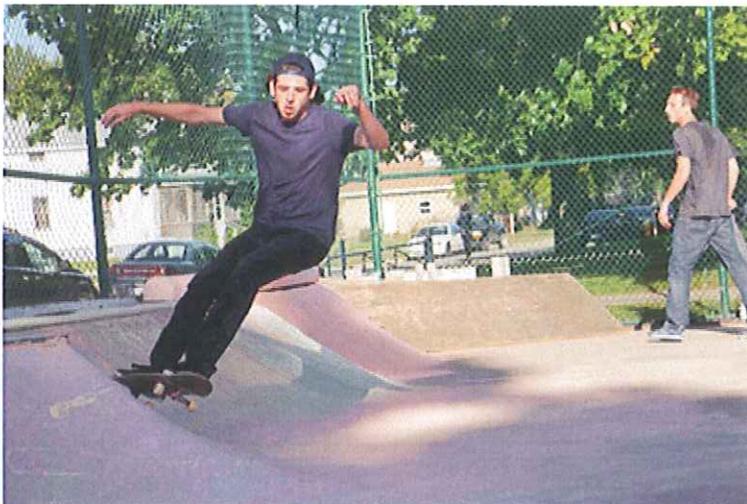
But in the summer of 2010, two new benches designed and painted green to look like they belonged on the tennis court suddenly appeared.

And at the same time, more and more skateboarders started appearing. The benches weren't actually for exhausted tennis players to rest on, but were built by the skaters to use for tricks.

Throughout the summer, boxes and ramps also appeared on the court, and all of the sudden word was out that a new skate park had been established.

Jump forward three years, and the park is a regional skate destination that has been pieced together in true do-it-yourself fashion by several local skaters. Now, on any given afternoon, it's hard to find fewer than 10 skaters at Prospect Park, and one of the country's largest skate websites recently posted a video it shot there.

Eli Stevick, who built the first two green benches with some friends' help, said the park is a special place for local skateboarders, who put it together with next to no funds.



A skater rides a long China rail at Prospect Park

"I think that everyone putting their piece into it; I think that gives a lot of people gratification. 'I built this thing and now I'm skating it.'" said Stevick, who has become one of the park's unofficial stewards. "You can build it how you want to and it caters to how people like to skateboard around here."

Weekend days can see upward of 40 skaters at once, and Stevick said skateboarders from as far away as Toledo, Kalamazoo and Los Angeles have ridden at the park. He and his friends were also able to land a \$2,500 grant to start building permanent concrete ramps in place of the wooden ramps that they have been skating on.

The company that provided the grant and posted the video, **TheBerrics.com**, filmed Stevic and other local skaters at Prospect Park, with commentary on Ypsilanti from Stevic. Not long before that, another film crew came through town to film a group of pro skaters at Prospect.

"All the kids were like 'Oh my God!' They were pretty starstruck," Stevick said of local kids getting to share the ramps with pro skaters like Sean Malto, Justin Eldridge and Chris Roberts.

Stevick and a few others are in the process replicating the park's current design made with wood in cement.

"It's been really good to mimic what's at the park already and what we had going because people loved it so much," Stevick said. "And in the long run everything lasts longer, doesn't fall apart every three months, there are no nails. As far as safety and skateability go, it's better for everyone."



Prospect Park's new skate park

The park was nearly shut down by the city when the department of public services discovered light construction being performed on a city-owned park. Around a dozen skateboarders showed up to a city council meeting to discuss the park. In separate meetings with Council Member **Pete Murdock** and DPS employees, the city and Stevick were able to resolve the issues.

"We're working with DPS. They just wanted to be in good communication with someone at the park, and they've been really supportive," Stevick said. So far, the park features a long china bank based off a skate spot in San Francisco's China Town. Plans also call for a 45-degree angled bank with a roll, barrier-style quarter pipe, small bank with a parking curb, spine, manual pad, A-frame kicker, boxes, rails, a flat bar and more. Stevick said Prospect's environment is positive, and there haven't been any issues with crime or fighting. He said the guys using neighboring basketball court have even asked how the skaters all get along so well. "It's a small, friendly environment. People out here are 10 years old to 30 years old, and it has become a family beyond all barriers," Stevick said. "People from out of town are welcome and it's small enough that it's a hangout spot. Everyone is watching others progress and seeing what everyone is doing.

"It's a pretty good, loving environment."



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5
10 AM - 2 PM

Drop by the Eyrie in Depot Town (9 E. Cross) to meet with Ypsilanti residents, loan managers, and realtors and get great tips on buying a home in 2013.

Pick up a map at the Eyrie or online, then tour homes for sale at your own pace until 2 p.m.

View the list of houses to be shown at:
openhouse.ypsi.com