



Memorandum

To: Mayor Schreiber and City Council Members

From: _____
Ralph A. Lange, City Manager

Date: February 28, 2013

Subject: Council Information Letter

GENERAL INFORMATION

Department of Public Works - On LED Conversions, Mr. Kirton has received confirmation from the DTE Energy's Energy Efficiency Program for Business that they have received our Reservation Application (incentives/rebates) for the two upcoming projects. Also, after reviewing the applications, DTE has reserved a total of \$19,090.00 in incentives. Actual incentives paid by DTE will be based on the final qualification amount calculated after the final review. Installation of the fixtures will begin when DTE receives delivery of the LED fixtures.

A service technician from Verdin was scheduled to repair the Depot Town clock on Thursday, however, due to the weather conditions, and the fact that he is traveling from the west side of the state, he is now scheduled to repair the clock on Monday, March 4th. This work is covered under the warranty.

A meeting was held on Tuesday, February 26, on the Grade Inspection (GI) on Grove Road with Brian Chomas from MDOT. OHM will make the changes to the plans and submit a final set of plans to MDOT. The project is still on schedule for the June 7th bid letting. There was some discussion with Jeff Allen, Charter Township of Ypsilanti, on the direction of traffic for the one way detour slated for this project.

Due to the severity of the damage caused by the recent winter storm event, DPS will do a one-time city-wide brush pick-up. Weather permitting, we will begin on Friday, March 1st and continue on Saturday, March 2nd if necessary.

Finance Department - Through the joint effort of Fiscal Services and City Manager's Department, EVIP Category II Consolidation of Services for the City of Ypsilanti report was submitted to Michigan Department of Treasury. Jessica Teng, Manager Intern, compiled and updated the data for the existing and proposed consolidation efforts.

The deficit elimination plan of 2003 GO Unlimited Tax bonds as of fiscal year June 30, 2012 was finally approved by State of Michigan, Department of Treasury.

City staff attended a budget refresher course prepared by Fiscal Services Department, assisting them in preparing and entering their department budgets in Incode, the financial program. We will continue to assist each department to complete their budget as needed.

The June 30, 2012, actuarial valuation for the Fire and Police Pension system was received and will soon be available on the City's website. The Annual Required Contribution for fiscal year 2013/2014 is \$1,347,529, which will be collected as part of the Fire and Police Pension special millage.

In an effort to increase participation in Direct Deposit, we are now offering direct deposit into four accounts instead of just two for all council members, employees and retirees.

Human Resources Department - Interviews are continuing for the Fire Chief and the field should be narrowed to three candidates this week. Interviews for the Assistant to the City Manager were held on February 25th and 27th. Two more interviews are scheduled for March 4, 2013. We received 205 applications for this position.

The new Deputy Police Chief, Tony DeGiusti, began his first day on the job on Monday, February 18th. Sylvonna Reed was selected to be the new Deputy Clerk I on February 4th. Sylvonna started her employment as an intern and is now a full time employee. James Jackson, Ordinance Enforcement Officer, went from part-time to full-time employment effective January 1st.

POAM negotiations are continuing. The negotiating team for the Fire Department met on Tuesday, February 12th. Management presented their items for negotiation. There was some discussion and the Fire Department requested some time to go through the list from management. On February 11th, the Negotiating Team for management met to begin our preparation for AFSCME negotiations.

Police Department - Congressman John D. Dingell met with Ypsilanti City Administration and Police Department officials this week to discuss the importance of federal funding to assist local law enforcement. They discussed the COPS Grants and JAB Grants and Congressman Dingell continues to be a strong supporter for the Ypsilanti Police Department adding that he will continue to do whatever he can at the federal level to support us, exploring grant opportunities, i.e. EVIP Grant for public safety.

The Deputy Chief is in the process of becoming oriented with everything. Chief Walker participated in the Fire Chief interviews and is also working on the Police Department's budget, union negotiations and public safety consolidation efforts and options.

Following are the latest crime statistics:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Robbery	4	3	2
Assaults	34	26	30
Burglaries	25	30	20
LFA's	24	23	8

Huron River Watershed Coalition grant applications

HRWC has applied for two grants that include the city. The first is a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Five Star Restoration Grant program. This application is for approx. \$47,815 to create a community visioning process around uses for Water Works Park as well as additional Border to Border connections. Additionally, the grant funds would be used to complete a steep slope assessment for riverbanks in the City to identify and suggest remedies for stability and erosion control.

Additionally, HRWC applied for and received a planning grant from the MotorCities National Heritage Area Cost Share grant to help fund the design phase for the Ford Heritage Trail. This would include planning for linkages to the River that could include a kayak and canoe landing at Cross Street to the Automotive Heritage Museum, construction of a boardwalk trail connection at the former Ford/Visteon plant at I-94 and Huron River, improved safe canoe and kayak portage of the Ford Lake Dam with paddle-in campsites, improved pedestrian access to the Ford Lake Powerhouse, adjacent Hydro Park, and the Ford Rawsonville Plant via Border to Border trail extension as well as design and install way-finding and interpretive signage kiosks at trail nodes. Questions can be directed to Elizabeth Riggs at eriggs@HRWC.ORG.

City of Ypsilanti Parks Plan 5 year update

Planning staff is currently working on an updated five-year parks and recreation master plan. An adopted Parks and Recreation Master plan conforming to certain standards is required by the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) for the City to maintain its eligibility for State-administered recreation-related grants, including Natural Resources Trust Fund grants, and helps to provide a basis for other grant applications. The planning processes also helps the Recreation Commission, staff, and Council inventory and prioritize the parks and recreation system, and helps the City to identify and engage community partners. Staff has been developing the plan since late March. A survey was distributed in June and July, a public meeting was held in June, and an initial draft was presented to the Recreation Commission in August.

The final draft of the plan will be presented to the Recreation Commission at their regularly scheduled March meeting (Thu, March 14, 7pm at the downtown Ypsilanti District Library). With their approval, the plan will be posted on the City's website and hard copies made available for viewing at the downtown library and City Hall for not less than thirty days; public comment will be accepted during this time. Staff will make any necessary corrections at the end of the thirty days, and the final plan will come before Council for approval at one of the regularly scheduled April meetings. Should Council approve the plan, it will be submitted for MDNR approval forthwith. MDNR approval generally takes one month. Adoption is expected by late spring.

Peninsular Park improvements coordinated through HRWC

The HRWC is working with the City on potential improvements to Peninsular Park. They are soliciting funds for the improvements on the attached sheet as part of their RiverUP project.

Award for Tax Foreclosure Open House program.

Washtenaw County Treasurer, Catherine McClary, applied for and received a National Association of Counties award for partnering with the City of Ypsilanti on this program. More information can be found here: https://employee.washtenaw.org/news_notes/2013-newsnotes/washtenaw-county-treasurer-catherine-mcclary-wins-national-association-of-counties-naco-award-for-partnership-program-with-ypsilanti-city

State Urban Forestry Award

The City of Ypsilanti was selected to receive the 2012 Governmental Excellence in urban Forestry Award for significant advances in our urban forestry program through the Tree inventory, tree nursery development

and related street tree plantings. The award letter is attached. And, the Tree Nursery spring plantings, which will represent the ending of the Great Lakes Restoration Institute grants, will be held on Friday April 19 and Saturday April 20th. See attached flier for more details. Please share widely.

CDBG allowance to City of Ypsilanti for 2013-2014

Feb. 21, 2012 City Council approved a two year plan for CDBG allocation projects for the City of Ypsilanti. The chart below represents what was approved for this year previously.

City of Ypsilanti - CDBG Workplan	
	2013-2014
CDBG - Urban County Allocation (expected)	104,000
ADA ramps (low/mod areas)*	50,000
Senior Center (kitchen)	
Single family rehab	40,000
Dangerous buildings demolition/rehab	14,000
Totals:	104,000

Recent changes by the Urban County have resulted in 25% of the allocation to each community being reserved for single family rehabilitation (for income qualifying owners), so the 40,000 would not need to be allocated. The allocation for 2013-2014 is now 61,000. Below is the revised allocation with the owner-occupied rehab lines removed.

City of Ypsilanti - CDBG Workplan	
	2013-2014
CDBG - Urban County Allocation	61,000
ADA ramps (low/mod areas)*	50,000
Dangerous buildings demolition/rehab	11,000
Totals:	61,000

The Senior Center kitchen rehabilitation project that has been approved with previous CDBG funding is expected to begin this spring. Also, there is \$50,000 that was not previously used that will be reallocated. Staff will be presenting a proposal for this in the April.

Items for upcoming council meetings

- March 19 will be the purchase agreement and public hearing for Family Dollar.
- Second reading for Food ordinance (sans hoop houses)



ARBORICULTURE SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL
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January 29, 2013

City of Ypsilanti

Planning and Development

Attn: Ms. Teresa Gillotti – City Planner

One South Huron St

Ypsilanti MI 48197

Dear Ms. Gillotti:

Congratulations! The **City of Ypsilanti** has been selected to receive the **2012 Governmental Excellence in Urban Forestry Award** for significant advances in your urban forestry program. This annual award is presented on behalf of the Michigan DNR's Urban and Community Forestry Program and the Michigan Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council.

We request the honor of your presence at the Annual ASM Awards Ceremony Luncheon to be held during ASM's Winter Conference, called ArborCon, on Tuesday, February 19, 2013, beginning at 11:30a.m. The event is located at the Lansing Center at 333 East Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933. Parking is available under the Lansing Center or at the Grand Ave. ramp connected to the Lansing Center by the skywalk.

We ask that you arrive a few minutes before 11:30 a.m. and come to the ASM registration area in Exhibit Hall 'A' South Entrance. ASM staff or a volunteer will direct you to the luncheon area. We will provide two (2) complimentary lunches for the Awards Luncheon. Additional tickets may be purchased for \$25 per person. If they are registered for the conference, then the Awards Lunch is already included with their registration fee. Please let me know who will be attending so we may have nametags ready for them. If you are not already an attendee of the conference, please stay and enjoy Tuesday's afternoon ArborCon sessions with us.

Please RSVP by February 8, 2013 by emailing me at asm@acd.net or feel free to call me at 517-337-4999.

Again, congratulations!

Nancy Carpenter

Nancy A Carpenter, CAE
Executive Director

Cc: Kevin Sayers, State Coordinator, Urban Forestry Program, Michigan DNR

River Access Improvements

Peninsular Park, City of Ypsilanti, MI

RiverUp!



Project Need:

Peninsular Park, located within the City of Ypsilanti park system, is located at the Peninsular Paper Dam that creates a pond of the Huron River near the Eastern Michigan University campus and the Border to Border trail.

This site needs a safer, well-marked portage for paddlers to portage the dam and prevents additional bank erosion. The dock available for taking out boats for the portage around the dam is in disrepair (pictured), as is the portage including the launch on the downstream side of the dam. For example, metal rods protrude from the cement dock and the stairs are crumbling. Moreover, the site is not well-marked for paddlers and lacks any information or education signage about the river, the community or the heritage of the area.

The City of Ypsilanti is excited to work with RiverUp! to make these improvements and add signage that educates and informs park and Water Trail users.

Project cost: \$20,000 - \$30,000

Includes engineering drawings, contractor, presentations/meetings, permit work and site supervision

Timeframe: Spring/Summer 2013

Project Contact:

Elizabeth Riggs
RiverUp! Project Manager
eriggs@hrwc.org
734.769.5123 x608



Top right: The now-empty Peninsular Paper powerhouse figures prominently along the river.

Bottom right: The landing dock has moved away from the riverbank by a meter and is broken making safe exit from the water difficult.

Left: The portage of Peninsular dam can be safe, enjoyable, and educational for trail users with a few improvements.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR EARTH DAY AND ARBOR DAY TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?



The City of Ypsilanti is working to revitalize its urban forest. To do so, the City and ReLeaf Michigan are working to plant 500 bare-root saplings in the city's nursery over the course of two days. We are looking for 100 volunteers to cover two four hour shifts each day:

DATES: Friday, April 19th, and Saturday, April 20th
TIMES: 9:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. and 1:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Refreshments will be provided.

GET INVOLVED, RAIN OR SHINE!

Reserve your spot! Contact Project Forester Christine Forton from ReLeaf Michigan at
email: cforton@releafmichigan.org / phone: 1-800-642-7353



ReLeaf Michigan

