



## CITY OF YPSILANTI Council Information Letter

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### Water Street Groundbreaking

The City of Ypsilanti conducted the first Water Street groundbreaking ceremony, which took place Thursday, August 14, 2014. Local officials, special invited guests, residents and business community partners gave remarks and participated in a ceremonial groundbreaking on the site.



Family Dollar was the first business approved for the Water Street Re-Development Area and started a new chapter of progress on the site. The City is excited for all of the projects currently approved for the development, including a residential complex and recreation center.



"We are coming together to celebrate that economic development on Water Street has finally begun," said Ypsilanti City Manager Ralph A. Lange. "We are excited to increase businesses, create new jobs, and revitalize our community. Family Dollar will be the first of many Water Street projects to stimulate City development."



## City Manager's Office

### Action & Request Center Report:

The following is an update of the Action Center support tickets:

- ◇ 34 online support tickets were opened since the last CIL (July 25, 2014)

Abandoned Vehicles	0	14 Closed  0 In Progress  20 Open
Animal Control	1	
Criminal Activity (Non Emergency)	2	
Graffiti	7	
Dumping	2	
Noise Complaints	2	
Other Violations	3	
Park Maintenance	0	
Parking Complaints	1	
Public Facilities	1	
Rental Housing	1	
Sidewalks	0	
Street Conditions	2	
Streetlights	0	
Trash/Litter	7	
Vehicles in Yard	1	
Weeds	3	
Zoning Violations	1	
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	

### New City Manager Intern

Sean Sonneveldt began working as the City Manager's Intern on Tuesday, August 26, 2014. Sean is currently in his last year at University of Michigan-Dearborn in the Master's of Finance program, where he currently has a 4.0. Sean did his undergraduate studies at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and is a resident of the City of Ypsilanti.

### SEMCOG Transportation Coordinating Council Meetings

The City Manager has been appointed as the City's delegate to the Transportation Council and attended the August 27, 2014 meeting. The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2014 is as follows: September 24, October 22, and December 3. Council meetings are held in SEMCOG's Woodward Room in Detroit. Meetings are open to the public and convene at 9:30 a.m.

## City Manager's Office (continued)

**Solid Waste Contract & Transition-** The solid waste contracts with Republic Services and Advanced Disposal are almost finalized. Republic services will appear at the September 16, 2014 City Council meeting to present its transition plan for solid waste collection services to begin on September 21. The City Manager's Office, Department of Public Services and Republic Services are also jointly working on an updated newsletter and press release that will be distributed to city residents and businesses. Republic Services is assisting the City with costs to print and mail the newsletter.

**County Wide Road Funding Initiative—** Washtenaw County and Washtenaw County Road Commission are seriously considering generating additional dollars to fund road repairs. The City Manager recently attended a meeting with County executives and represented the City's interests in this regard. He will continue to attend the meetings and provide updates.

## Human Resources

### Current Job Postings:

- Police Officer

### Employees Off From /Returned to Work:

- 1 employee out on Workers' Comp
- 1 employee is on light duty
- 2 employees are FMLA leave

### Miscellaneous Updates:

- Training has begun for Department Heads, Managers and Supervisors for conducting employee evaluations
- The City's Title VI renewal application has completed and mailed to MDOT
- COAM & POAM contracts have been submitted to negotiation teams for final review
- Given significant savings and positive feedback, HR sent letters to eligible retirees to consider switching their health insurance to Medicare Advantage
- Attended a Blue Cross Seminar on the upcoming changes in 2015 for the Affordable Care Act



**Denim Days—** during the month of August, employees had the option to pay \$3.00 a week for an extra casual day and to benefit a local charity. It was a success! We raised \$125 in proceeds that will be donated to SOS Community Services.

### EMPLOYMENT CHANGES

Michael Johnson (Hired 8/11)  
Fire Fighter

Weixuan Luo (Hired 8/05)  
Finance Dept. Intern

Xin Wei (Hired 8/25)  
Temp. Finance Generalist

Sean Sonneveldt (Hired 8/26)  
City Manager Intern

Greg Brierley (retired 8/11) Fire  
Fighter/EMT

Michael Massey (Resigned on 8/01)  
Equipment Operator

Jessica Teng (8/13)  
City Manager's Office  
Completed Internship

## Department of Public Services

**Energy Revolving Loan Fund.** DTE Community Lighting has submitted a bid to replace the decorative lights on N. Washington Street originally installed in the late 1970's. These lights burn 250 watt Mercury Vapor (MV) bulbs and consume a lot of energy. Eventually the MV bulbs will be phased out and no longer available. The DTE proposal included the removal and disposal of the multi-bulb cluster lights and the single head poles and fixtures. DTE proposes to install six (6) Granville light poles with LED fixtures, which will match the existing lights poles in the downtown area. The cost for this project is just under \$25,000.

**DPS Outdoor Light Fixtures.** DPS staff is researching outdoor light fixtures for the DPS yard to replace the existing Mercury Vapor and High Pressure Sodium fixtures.

**Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Program.** Saladino Construction has begun this years' Sidewalk Ramp Replacement Program. ADA ramp installation will resume on Monday, September 15th on South Washington Street.

**Pavement Maintenance Program.** All urgent road repairs throughout the City were completed on Wednesday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Penn Dam.** The detailed inspection of the spillway and dam components is complete; the report from OHM will be submitted in early September.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).** The construction drawings for the CDBG Senior Center kitchen and electrical improvement project were reviewed by the County Health Department for their comments. A couple of minor changes were made to the drawings and will be resubmitted to the County for their approval.

**2015 Prospect Road Project.** As everyone knows the City received \$1.9 million in Priority Road Improvement Funds from the state for the reconstruction and repairs to Prospect Road, from Holmes Road to the Grove Road Bridge approach. Bids for Phase I, between Michigan Avenue and Grove Road, were solicited through MITN (Michigan Inter-governmental Trade Network) and five (5) sealed bids were received and opened on Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, at 2:00 pm. The bids ranged from \$513,732.56 to \$348,537.21.

- ⇒ **Ajax Paving Industries**, Troy, MI, \$513,732.56
- ⇒ **Barrett Paving Materials, Inc.**, Ypsilanti, MI, \$449,950.11
- ⇒ **Pavex Corporation**, Trenton, MI, \$438,907.87
- ⇒ **Florence Cement Company**, Shelby Township, MI, \$428,129.11
- ⇒ **Cadillac Asphalt, LLC**, Belleville, MI, \$348,537.21

## Department of Public Services (continued)

**Surplus Equipment.** DPS will begin listing additional surplus equipment in 2 weeks.

**Tot Lots.** Selections for the play equipment are being made for Hefley and Mattingly Tot Lots and will be ordered soon. The tot swing for Candy Cane Park has been delivered and installation is scheduled for October 10, 2014.

**Solar Projects.** We have received the funds (for DPS) from the anonymous donor to add photovoltaic systems to city facilities. Selected were Parkridge Community Center, Senior Center and the DPS Admin building. Dave Strenski has been coordinating this project with city staff and the anonymous donor.

**Prospect Bridge.** The Prospect Bridge Rehabilitation Project started on Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>. The project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. Remaining punch list items includes additional guard rail repairs, sidewalk joint plates and minor sidewalk repairs.

**Street Light Conversions.** The 2014 conversions are completed with the exception of the signal pole cobra heads that belong to the city but will be converted. There will additional costs for the signal pole conversion since they belong to the city.

**Tree Removals.** DPS staff has begun August tree removals. Trees scheduled for removal and maintenance are located on the Department of Public Services webpage.

## Fiscal Services

- Compiled/Prepared data for the actuarial valuation of Fire & Police pension system in compliance with annual requirement and GASB 67 for the General Retirement System
- Prepared final Rutherford Pool reimbursement requests
- Submitted the progress reports to State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources for the Rutherford Pool Renovation Project-Grant Closed, Ypsilanti Heritage Bridge Development, and River Edge Linear Park & Trail Development
- Prepared audit schedules for the FY 2013-14
- Prepared and reviewed the Personal Property Tax reimbursement reports for all TIF districts. Report is due to the State of Michigan, Department of Treasury on 8/29/2014
- Completed the 2014 Clerk's Statement of Money to be Raised by Tax

## Economic & Community Development

### Shape Ypsi Master Plan wins state award of Excellence!

All of our hard work has been recognized! The Michigan Association of Planning (MAP) has awarded the City of Ypsilanti Master Plan the 2014 Planning Excellence Award – Daniel Burnham Award for a Comprehensive Plan. Named for one of the most famous planners in US history, the prestigious award is given to a comprehensive plan that advances the science and art of planning. The independent jury of American Planning Association members from Ohio, which selected Shape Ypsilanti for the Daniel Burnham award, commented on the functionality of the plan, with solid, realistic implementation strategies. The award will be formally given at MAP's Planning Excellence Awards on October 8, 2014 at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island. If any council members are interested in attending the banquet please contact Teresa at [tgillot-ti@cityofypsilanti.com](mailto:tgillot-ti@cityofypsilanti.com). The related press release is attached.

The logo for Shape Ypsilanti, featuring the text "Shape Ypsilanti" in a stylized, orange, cursive font, enclosed in a thin green rectangular border.

### 15 S. Washington (Former Smith Furniture building)

This property sold at tax foreclosure. Staff has been able to meet with the new owners and begin discussions about reuse and compliance with the previous dangerous building order to remove the mold and fix the roof. Staff will be following up with the owner on a time frame for compliance, and also assistance with potential OPRA and other application in coming weeks.

### Border to Border update

The final plans for the Heritage Bridge project and River's Edge linear park and trail have been submitted to DNR along with the proposed bid book. Comments have been received and are being updated by Mannik and Smith. The other approval needed before the bid can go out is from DEQ for two permits, one for Riverside Park and the other for on the Water Street Redevelopment Area side. Final responses from both approving bodies are expected in the next two weeks. AS soon as they are approved the City will begin the bid approval process.

### Water Street market materials revised

The City is almost finished with the all the materials, with special thanks to Pattie Harrington who donated her design services to the effort. New packets are finished – the online version is available [here](#). Printed versions are available upon request. Smaller postcard versions directing folks to the website will be finished and available next week. New signage for the site is expected to be in place by the end of September.



## Police Department



### Activity Report:

Following are the statistics for the current period reflected by the past three months with 2 days left in August.

June	July	August
816 Calls for Service	1618 Calls for Service	1375 Calls for Service
194 Arrests	269 Arrests	231 Arrests
405 Tickets Issued	869 Tickets Issued	341 Tickets Issues
404 Case Reports Written	463 Case Reports Written	425 Case Reports Written

**Probationary Officers:** Officers Anderson, Peterson, Bergland and Harrison are all performing well. Officer Kofahl as completed the Field Training Program and is now certified for solo patrol. Officer Smith is entering his final phase of the FTO Program and is expected to be certified for solo patrol in mid-September. Officer Morrison is in the second phase of the FTO program and is progressing well. Officer Warren was terminated due to poor performance during the FTO Program. Currently three applicants are in the background phase of the hiring process and more interviews are scheduled for September 10, 2014.

**School Resource Officer:** Officer Elizabeth Hunt has been selected to be the School Resource Officer at the Middle School. The contract between the City and YCS is currently being worked on and should be ready for the second meeting in September. Officer Hunt will start at the school on September 2, 2014.

**DDA:** Officer Brenden Harrison has been selected as the DDA Officer. Officer Harrison worked security at Fairlane Mall prior to becoming a police officer. He has extensive experience in dealing with business owners and their patron. This coupled with his outgoing personality should make this position a great success. He will start his new duties in mid-September when Officer Smith is ready for solo patrol.

**USDOJ Vest Grant:** The department applied for funding through the USDOJ Bullet Proof Vest Grant. We were awarded \$5,327.61 towards future vest purchases. These funds are a 50% reimbursement on purchases made by the department and the funds are available for a two year period.

**USDOJ Technology Grant:** The department applied for a technology grant through the USDOJ 2014 Byrne Memorial Grant Program. We recently were notified that we were awarded \$15,340.00 towards purchases of technological needs for the department.