

City of Ithaca ~ Municipal Viewpoint



~ Managers Minute ~

THERE IS "FALL" & THEN THERE ARE "FALLS"!

From Chris A. Yonker, City Manager

The **"fall"** season is upon us and like squirrels, we are all scurrying to get everything done before winter sets in. If we're not putting away lawn furniture & our big toys, we are turning under our gardens & raking leaves. At least here in town, we have options available to address our **yard waste disposal** needs. We've made a few changes that we hope will make the process more efficient & timely for our citizens:

Included with this newsletter is a flyer that explains the modifications we've made to our curbside leaf pickup program. The city has been divided into four quadrants, with each quadrant having a specific day of the week when our leaf pickup crew will be in that section. At least residents will know the approximate dates when we will be in their area. Pickup will run approximately four weeks, weather permitting.

We have also relocated our brush/yard waste disposal operation to a new site next to the wastewater treatment plant on the southeast part of town. The former site at the cemetery was difficult to access, looked unsightly to our cemetery visitors & was periodically set afire by some mischievous person. Access to the new site is at the east end of Meadow Lane, which is the street that runs parallel to & just south of the railroad tracks. The street is also the main access road to the Meadow Lane Estates mobile home park and runs east from St. John's Street. There are separate piles for the disposal of brush & all other yard waste, such as leaves, grass, flowers, plants, etc. This gives residents an alternative for the disposal of leaves.

Our City public works crew was busy earlier this summer **replacing sidewalk** segments that had been identified as dangerous & potential **"fall"** hazards. These were addressed as a city-wide safety project at no cost to the adjoining property owners. However, there remain a significant amount of sidewalk sections that need to be replaced for which we do not have sufficient funding.

As noted in our summer newsletter, the City Council voted unanimously to place a City Charter amendment proposal on the November 3rd General Election ballot. The proposal would amend the Charter to authorize the levying of a one-mill property tax for a period of six years. The funding could only be used for the repair and replacement of deteriorated sidewalks, and construction of new sidewalks if funds remain. This work would be done at no cost to the property owner.

The community has been divided into six zones. Each year of the levy, we will attempt to replace those sidewalks in disrepair in one zone. In this way, we will be certain to address sidewalks in all areas of town. We developed a "frequently asked questions" (FAQ) flyer that helps answer some of the more common questions regarding the ballot proposal. Copies are available at City Hall and on the City's website & Facebook page.

We hope you are able to get outside and enjoy these final weeks of fall before it's too late. The tree colors are at their peak in Woodland Park & other areas of town. Right now, some hot apple cider and a homemade donut are sounding really good!

Autumn 2015

WELCOME FALL!



The leaves are falling fast, and Fall leaf pickup has already begun. Please rake leaves into a wind row along the edge of the street. (Please do not put the leaves directly on the street or sidewalk.) Any leaf piles that contain **grass clippings, walnuts, sticks or other debris** will not be picked up as they plug up the leaf vacuum. For brush and tree limbs, the City maintains a brush pile located at the East end of Meadow Lane Estates that is free to residents in the City. Consider helping a neighbor if they do not have the means to take brush to the brush pile. The City will only pick up brush and limbs from trees in the public right-of-way. While we encourage you to utilize the curbside pick-up program, the City also has an ordinance for burning leaves. During the months of **October** and **November** you can burn leaves. Keep the piles small and under control. The burning piles must be attended at all times. Leaves can not be burned on the city streets, alleys or sidewalks. Burning items of any other kind is prohibited. Please be conscious of neighbors that may have difficulty breathing, asthma or use oxygen before choosing this option over the leaf pickup program.

With winter weather being around the corner, we are starting to prepare for the snow and ice. Many times we must start plowing and salting the streets during the early hours of the morning. In order for us to do a thorough job, all vehicles must be kept off the streets. **City ordinance states that no vehicle can be parked on the streets during the hours of 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. year around. We appreciate your cooperation.**



Election News



The City General Election is Tuesday, November 3, 2015. City of Ithaca residents vote at the Community Center located at 120 N Maple Street. Polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. Absentee ballots are available from the City Clerk's office during normal business hours and also on Saturday, October 31, 2015 from 10:00am until 2:00pm. Contact Barbara Fandell or Cathy Cameron for election information at 989-875-3200 or email clerk@ithacami.com.

Reminders

Winter Taxes will be mailed out on December 1st, 2015 and are due on February 14th, 2016 to avoid penalty.

Veterans Day Ceremony

On November 11th at 11 a.m. on the Courthouse Lawn, come and join the community in honoring those that have given their lives, and for those presently serving. This service is hosted by the Ithaca VFW and the Ithaca American Legion Post.



Fall Back

Daylight Savings Time ends on November 1st, 2015. Turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night. This is also a great time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors, too!

happy holidays

HOLIDAY OFFICE CLOSINGS

In recognition of the approaching holiday season, city offices will be closed on the following dates:

Thanksgiving
November 26th & 27th

Christmas
December 24th & 25th

New Year's Day
January 1st, 2016

Buck Pole

The Annual Buck Pole will be held November 15 in downtown Ithaca around dusk. Stop by and check out this years great shots!

Christmas Under the Stars & Santa Parade will be December 4 starting at 6:00 PM in downtown Ithaca. Visit our website at www.ithacami.com for the latest information.



Trick-or-treat hours are from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 31st. Please take caution during these hours and watch for the little ghosts and goblins! Please remember to only visit homes who have their porch lights on during the trick-or-treat hours.