



MUNICIPAL VIEWPOINT

~ Manager's Minute ~

SUMMER 2015

TRASH TALK AND SIDEWALKS!

From Chris A. Yonker, City Manager

By the time most of you read this, you will have received a roll-out trash container from [Granger Waste Services](#), our new refuse disposal & recycling contractor. Granger will also be dropping off a 50-count box of blue recycling bags to those using a cart. For those senior citizens who desire to use the bag/tag trash disposal option instead of the trash cart, Granger's tags will go on sale August 3rd at City Hall and August 10th at Ric's Food Center. As a senior, if you have not contacted City Hall to inform us that you do not desire a cart, then please do so and we will arrange to get the cart picked up.

Granger's first collection of waste & recycling materials will be on Friday, August 7th. Republic tags may no longer be used from that date forward. If you have any remaining Republic tags and desire a refund, please bring them into City Hall between August 3rd and 17th and we will accommodate you. Republic Services will be collecting their trash containers and recycling bins after they are emptied on their last pickup day on Friday, July 31st, or shortly thereafter, so please leave them at the curb after they are emptied that day.



The City of Ithaca supports the use of many different modes of transportation. These include driving, bike riding and of course, walking. In order to improve the safety for pedestrians, our Department of Public Works (DPW) has surveyed all of our sidewalks and began [replacing segments of sidewalks](#) throughout town that are in the worst condition and pose a significant tripping hazard. The very limited funding for these replacements comes from our allocation of State Motor Fuel Tax receipts, a percentage of which must be used each year for non-motorized transportation improvements.

Because we have more sidewalk segments to replace than we currently have funds, 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.

Our engineering firm has taken a look at the DPW field survey data and will be dividing the community 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 will also use the Motor Fuel Tax receipts for the installation of new sidewalks in those areas with significant pedestrian traffic that do not currently have any walks; these would include areas around our public schools, our parks, and our commercial areas. We will attempt to use those funds to leverage grants, such as the Safe Routes to School grants, to help cover a portion of the costs of new walks.

We hope you take advantage of all the events and happenings in and around town the rest of this summer. Ithaca is an attractive community, and by properly taking care of our waste, recycling what we can, and replacing worn sidewalk segments, we will continue to keep it attractive and safe for both residents and guests. Stay cool, but keep active!

If you have red garbage tags left over from Republic Services, please bring them to City Hall for a refund. Refunds will be given August 3rd through the 17th only.

SEE INSERT FOR WASTE AND RECYCLING GUIDELINES



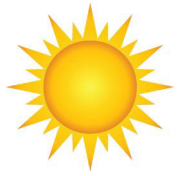
129 W EMERSON STREET
989-875-3200
Website: www.ithacami.com
Or like us on Facebook!

SUMMER TAX REMINDER:

Watch for your 2015 Summer Tax bills to arrive in your mailbox. They will be mailed out on July 31st. You will have until 9/30/2015 to pay without penalty.



FUN IN THE PARK!



With the receipt of a grant from the Gratiot County Community Foundation's Clyde & Maude Mizer Memorial Fund, the City was able to purchase a new swing set for McNabb Park. The Foundation presented a check for \$3500 to the City in June. It is the first piece of playground equipment installed in the park's playground area. We are hoping to expand the play area in the future.



Recently, members from the Ithaca Church of God volunteered their time sprucing up our Playscape in Woodland Park. They did a fantastic job, and their hard work is very much appreciated!



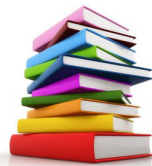
WELCOME BANNERS

Thank you to all who have sponsored the welcome banners. They will be displayed on existing poles on both sides of Center Street from US127 to Union Street. We still have room for winter banner sponsors. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Cameron at City Hall for more information.



LIBRARY NEWS

The Library has had another successful Summer Reading Program this year. Over 100 children and parents have attended each of the weekly sessions. They enjoyed presentations by Super Hero Authors, Duct Tape Crafts, Disc Dogs of Michigan, and The Bubbleman. Children were rewarded with a pizza party and prizes at Woodland Park on the last day for their attendance and reading. Thank you to our sponsors. With your support, our program was a great success!



White Pine Library Cooperative

***Smith Family Funeral Homes *Wal-Mart *Meijer**

***Commercial Bank *Mercantile Bank *Isabella Bank**

***McDonalds of Ithaca *De Saegher Family**

Phase 1 of our Basement Renovation Project is complete. The bids are out for Phase 2, which is for the finish work on the inside. The new landscaping has been completed thanks to the hard work of the City DPW crew and landscapers. Stop and spend a little time reading and/or relaxing on our benches and picnic table!

EXCITING EVENTS...

The 14th Annual Ithaca Hometown Fun Fest will begin on August 14th and continue through August 20th. There will be a variety of activities for everyone to enjoy. Please check our website or Facebook page for the latest information.



The US 27 Motor Tour will arrive in downtown Ithaca on Thursday, August 20th. Come on out and admire these beautiful cars from 10:30am to 12:30pm.

The Agri-Fit Challenge will be held on Saturday September 19th at McNabb Park. It will be a challenging 5K obstacle course. Entry forms are available at City Hall and on the City website. For more information, please call the Gratiot Area Chamber of Commerce at 989-463-5525 or visit their Facebook page.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

7/31/15....Last day of garbage pickup with Republic Service

7/31/15....Tax bills mailed out

8/7/15....First day of garbage pickup with Granger

8/14/15....Sport Shirt Golf Outing

8/14-8/20 2015....Ithaca Hometown Fun Fest

8/20/15....US 27 Motor Tour

9/7/2015....All City offices closed in observance of Labor Day

9/19/15....Agri-Fit Challenge

9/25/15....Water bills are due

9/30/15....Summer taxes are due

