



MUNICIPAL VIEWPOINT

Manager's Minute

ITHACA – HAPPY 2015!!!

By Bill Cousins, City Manager



Important Dates

02/01/15 - Business Personal
Property Statement
filing due
02/14/15 - Winter taxes due
02/25/15 - City Water bill due
04/03/15 - Good Friday
City Hall Closed
04/04/15 - Easter Egg Hunt
04/05/15 - Easter Sunday
05/05/15 - Election Day!

Ithaca is off to a wonderful start in 2015! There are a lot of good things happening in the City of Ithaca for all of us to be proud of!! Here is a list of some of the cool projects and activities underway in 2015:

The construction project at the Thompson Home Library consisting of a small addition to the front of the building with a stairway and the installation of a lift to provide barrier-free access to the basement of the building is almost complete. This project was made possible due to the gracious donations by patrons and a few grants obtained by Library staff.

Phase II of the Library remodeling will be to finish off the lower level with an 1,800 sq. ft. room that can be used for meetings, story-time activities and other library-related events. The plan is to also add restrooms and possibly a small kitchenette. The Library Board will soon select an architect and builder to get this project underway. Funding for this phase of construction will primarily come from the recently passed library millage. Thanks for your votes of support for our library system!

The City of Ithaca has restarted the process to hire a City Manager. My contract has been extended until early in April so that the Council can select a new manager and have that person work with me for a time to get acclimated to the position. I want to thank all of you for your help and support during my short stay in Ithaca. I have enjoyed working with a fabulous city staff and a host of volunteers (such as the DDA, Library Board and Planning Commission) to make Ithaca a better place to live and work each day! I will leave with pleasant memories of my time here – Thanks!!!

The City is currently advertising for the services of a part-time code enforcement officer and rental housing inspector. The position is expected to be filled in the month of February. This position may also assist the City Manager as time permits.

City staff have started the process to create the 2015-16 budget for the city. It is our goal to have a balanced budget to present to the City Council that provides the quality services to the business owners and residents that make for the best living and working conditions possible. Included in the budget process will be a six-year capital improvements plan that will provide the public with a look forward at the street improvements, sidewalk repairs, Fire Department equipment purchases, and DPW equipment purchases planned through June 30, 2021.

Please call the office anytime with questions about the newsletter or any city issue bothering you. It has been a pleasure for me to serve you the past seven months!!

A Message from the Department of Public Works



Snow clearing and removal is the primary task that faces our Department of Public Works during this time of year. City Hall has received a number of questions regarding our snow removal efforts. The priority level of clearing snow is the major streets, local streets, downtown and city buildings, alleys, clearing snow piles out of intersection ends and then sidewalks on school routes, followed by general sidewalks. If you are a local business that displays a sign out on the sidewalk during business hours, please remember to bring them in when you close. This helps the Department of Public Works keep

the sidewalks in the Downtown Business District clear from snow and ice.

The post office has restrictions on mail delivery to a house where the sidewalk has not been cleared. We appreciate this concern on behalf of the post office and our residents, our City ordinance deems it is the property owner's responsibility to clear the snow and ice from the sidewalk that is in front of their property. We appreciate residents that clear their own, their neighbors and sometimes the entire block of sidewalk and hope their neighbors appreciate it as well.



When clearing your driveway, please do not push snow out into and /or across the street. This is prohibited under state law MDL 257.677a, which states "a person shall not deposit, or cause to be deposited, snow, ice, or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safety vision of the driver of a motor vehicle."

Your cooperation and patience is essential to the success of our snow removal efforts. Thank you!



Remember to shop local for Valentines day!!



City Council Meeting Dates

Meeting Dates		
January	06	2015
January	20	2015
February	03	2015
February	17	2015
March	03	2015
March	17	2015
April	07	2015
April	21	2015
May	05	2015
May	19	2015
June	02	2015
June	16	2015
July	07	2015
July	21	2015
August	04	2015
August	18	2015
September	01	2015
September	15	2015
October	06	2015
October	20	2015
November	03	2015
November	17	2015
December	01	2015
December	15	2015

How easy is your house to find??

In the case of an emergency - every minute counts!! The easiest way to locate a house in an emergency is to locate the address on a building. To help Police, Fire and Rescue find your house, your address numbers should be easily readable from the roadway. Address numbers should be at least 4 inches in height, 1/2 inch in width and shall contrast with the background color of the house. To further help, each residential and commercial establishment should develop an evacuation plan in case of a fire or other emergency.

Also, please keep in mind during the winter months not to block or restrict any means of egress in or out of a structure as a way of trying to be more energy efficient during the cold weather. These exit points may be critical in an emergency. If you need additional information on these topics, please feel free to contact City Hall at 989-875-3200 and they can assist you to the correct department.



Congratulations!

2014 New Businesses

Kendall Pharmacy
The Hardwoods

Business Renovations & Façade Improvements

Hometown Cellars
Winery & Brewery

Greater Gratiot Development

City of Ithaca -Downtown Improvement

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www.ithacami.com