

City of Ithaca ~ Municipal Viewpoint



Mayors Corner

As the calendar welcomes in 2016, we reflect on the changes of 2015 and the opportunities for new and exciting endeavors in the new year.

With the elections of 2015, the Ithaca City Council welcomed two new faces and said goodbye to two men.

L.D. Hollenbeck served the City for the past 8 years as a member of the City Council. L.D. Served on numerous committees and was the City Representative to the Gratiot Agricultural Society. We appreciate L.D.'s unselfish service and dedication to the City of Ithaca.

John Thomas served the City for the past 43 years in various ways. John served as a firefighter before joining the City Council. John also served as the City's Mayor for 10 years. John will be sorely missed. His dedication and passion for the City are an inspiration.

Cathy Timmons and Trevor Paradise were elected to the City Council. Cathy is a returning councilperson, while Trevor has joined for the first time. We look forward to working with Cathy and Trevor in the future as they bring a fresh perspective and ideas to this great City.

I consider my opportunity to serve as Mayor to be one of great privilege. I look forward to the challenges and embrace the ideas that all of the citizens of Ithaca have for our great community.

*Sincerely,
Tim Palmer*

Election News



The Presidential Primary Election is Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

Michigan's Presidential Primary is designated as a closed primary and any Michigan registered voter can vote in the election. This election is guided by Michigan Election Law and the law requires that voters indicate, in writing, which political party ballot he/she wishes to vote. Whether voting by absentee ballot or at the polls, a voter **must** select the party ballot they want to vote **before** a ballot can be issued.

Selection of the party ballot is only for the Presidential Primary and has no bearing on how a person votes in the State Primary held in August.

Voters will make a selection for one of the ballots below:

- ◇ Republican Party Presidential Primary Ballot
- ◇ Democratic Party Presidential Primary Ballot
- ◇ The third option, would be a ballot without a Presidential Primary, however this option is not applicable as there are no local proposals on the March 8th ballot.

Polls for the election will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm



For more election information, please visit the **Michigan Voter Information Center** at www.Michigan.gov/vote or contact City Clerk Barb Fandell at City Hall or by email at clerk@ithacami.com.

ITHACA TO PARTICIPATE IN MI MAIN ST. PROGRAM

In early January, the MI State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) named the City one of its five new Associate Level members of the MI Main Street (MMS) program. The City's Downtown Development Authority (DDA) will guide the year-long introduction to the MMS program.

DDA Board members, as well as City staff and other volunteers will attend several no-cost, day-long training workshops held in various existing MMS communities. The workshops focus on providing a basic understanding and knowledge of the Main Street Four-Point Approach[®] (organization, promotion, economic restructuring & design) to help communities create a place that celebrates the unique assets of the area. The approach provides the foundation that drives locally-driven initiatives aimed at revitalizing downtowns by leveraging local assets such as cultural or architectural heritage, local enterprises and community pride.

The MMS Associate program is part of the State's "Placemaking" initiative and downtown development efforts in Michigan. These efforts are based on numerous studies showing that investment in downtown spaces creates vibrant and healthy communities, boosting the economic strength of our state. Consider volunteering, attending the workshops and learning more about the program.

More information can be found at MSHDA's MMS website at: <http://www.michiganmainstreetcenter.com/Home.aspx>.

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. 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!

Important Dates

- 02/01/16 - Business Personal Property Statement filing due
- 02/14/16 - Winter taxes due
- 02/25/16 - City Water bill due
- 03/08/16 - Presidential Primary Election
- 03/25/16 - Good Friday - City Hall Closed
- 03/26/16 - Easter Egg Hunt
- 03/27/16 - Easter Sunday

March Board of Review Dates

- March 14, 2016 -- 9-12pm & 1-4pm
- March 16, 2016 -- 1-4pm & 6-9pm
- March 23, 2016 -- 9-12pm & 1-4pm

The Thompson Home Public Library is currently taking reservations for their Basement Community Room. For more information on the Library Community Room and/or to make a reservation, please contact the Library at 989-875-4184.

Utility bills are billed quarterly and are for the previous three (3) months. Payment is due within 30 days.

- January - March - Billed April 25
- April - June - Billed July 25
- July - September - Billed October 25
- October-December - Billed January 25



2015 New Businesses

Tractor Supply Co.
Stay Fit +
The Bee Hive
Sara Bonacci Photography
Center for Women's HealthCare
iWi MedSpa
Pine River Dental Care

Business Renovations & Façade Improvements

Thompson Home Public Library
Anderson Carpet
Downtown Auto
The Keg Party Store
E & S Graphics
C & S Steel
Precision Machine and Manufacturing

City, Village and Township Revenue Sharing Incentive Program (CVTRS)

Public Act 84 of 2015, set the program requirements for local units of government to qualify for receiving the statutory Revenue Sharing payments. For fiscal year 2016, the Legislature continued the City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) program. Each eligible local unit, of which the City of Ithaca is an eligible unit, must meet all of the requirements of Accountability and Transparency in order to receive the full CVTRS payments.

The documents are available for viewing on the city's website at www.ithacami.com.

Reminder!

Winter 2015 property taxes are due on February 14, 2016. All unpaid property taxes will be transferred to the County as of March 1, 2016. Cash or check accepted at City Hall.