



Issue May 2017

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The season is upon us

Construction season begins with a long awaited project

Last year, we said the N. Jefferson construction project would happen by fall. We were wrong. It's this spring.

The N. Jefferson construction project kicks off the construction season in a big way. Not only will milling and resurfacing happen, but utility improvements and sidewalk ramps will happen, as well. The project extends on Jefferson north to Fremont and on Fremont from Jefferson to Monroe.

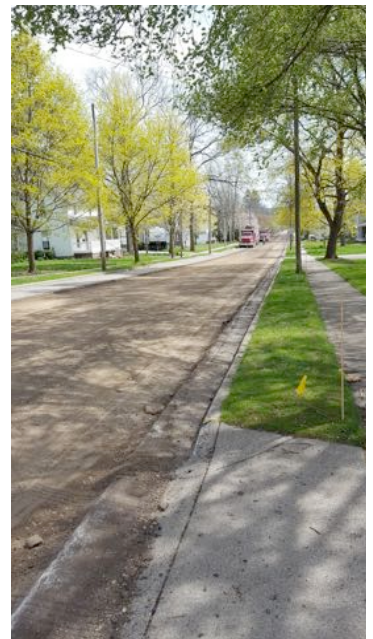
By now, you may have already seen the truck traffic detour signs routing traffic to Monroe. Unless you are going to a home within the construction zone, please follow the detour to access the northeast section of this neighborhood. This makes the work zone safer for workers and keeps the work moving. By adding Fremont to the project, it eases the inconvenience of truck traffic up and down Monroe for a second construction project.

We appreciate the patience of residents with the drop off from the curb of three to four inches at the end of each driveway. Water main and sewer work will be done during this project to avoid inconvenience at another time and preserving the new road surface as long as possible. Sidewalk ramps will be improved at intersections, as well.

The inconvenience won't last forever. Working hours are 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday with an occasional Saturday included. Residents are asked to park off the street between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to ease construction access. The project is scheduled to wrap up around the end of June.

Services will still be available during construction. Trash delivery will not change and mail delivery will go on as normal. The construction crew will work with these providers to ensure access as needed.

If you have questions or concerns, there is a detailed information PDF on the City website with contact information. Questions or concerns should be addressed to those individuals.



Celebrate with a bang!

With warm weather come outdoor celebrations. At times, those celebrations happen with fireworks.

In the City of Lowell, the current ordinance limits personal use of fireworks to holidays, the day prior and the day following a holiday. This totals 30 days each year. If you are using firecrackers, cones and other items outside of the specified days, you are in violation of the ordinance.

So celebrate those holidays, just remember the limits. Your neighbors will appreciate your courtesies.

Pedal power!

Bicycling season is here and lots of folks are hitting the streets for fun, fitness and commuting. This is a great time for a refresher on the rules.

In Michigan, bicycles have all the same rights and responsibilities of the road as a motor vehicle. State law requires bicycles to follow all the rules of the road. This includes stopping at all stop signs and stop lights, signaling turns, and passing only when it is safe to do so. Bicycles can ride side-by-side in the road and do not have to yield the road to traffic from behind.

City ordinance prohibits bicycles from using the public sidewalk. This applies in neighborhoods, at intersections and along Main Street.

Cars, trucks and motorcycles need to remember that bicycles have a right to the road and should be treated like any other vehicle. Even where a bike lane is available, a bicyclist still has the right to use the road.

A few tips that can help the season pass safely: Drivers, keep your eyes open for even the smallest vehicles on the road. Bicyclists, pay attention to what is happening around you, because even if you are right, in a collision you lose.

A little courtesy can make a difference. Drivers, don't ride closer to a bicycle than you would if it were your loved one was on that bike. Bicyclists, realize

that you are blocking traffic and look for opportunities to remedy the situation.

Enjoy the season and pedal on!

The bottom line

It's the time of year when the City Council needs to approve a budget for the coming fiscal year. The 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget is available for review on the City website.

On May 6th, there will be a meeting to review and discuss the budget focusing on the City's priorities for the coming year. The public is welcome to be there. The meeting will take place in the Lowell Light & Power Board Room beginning at 10:00 a.m. The plan is to wrap up between 2:00-3:00 p.m. However, the Council will stay in session later if needed. If you are unable to attend, call or email your questions or comments to the City Manager no later than May 5th.

Keeping it green!

The Arbor Board has done it again! They have helped Lowell continue to be a designated Tree City USA for yet another year. To celebrate this achievement and Earth Day, the Board will be planting a tree at the site of Big Boiler Brewing, which will be opening on Main Street in June. Join the Arbor Board on Friday, May 5th at noon to plant another tree as we continue leafing out all over town!

It's a party!

It's hard to believe that it has already been 20 years since the Kent District Library-Englehardt Branch opened on the bank of the Flat River. The Friends of the Englehardt Library are sponsoring the Englehardt 20 Year Birthday Bash on Saturday, May 13th 1:00-3:00 p.m. Bring the family and join the fun!

Speak up!

It's time to cast your vote! On Tuesday, May 2nd, polls open at 7:00 a.m. Kent Intermediate School District is asking residents to approve a millage that helps all school districts in the county. For more information, check their website at kentisd.org. Then get to the polls before 8:00 p.m. to have your say.

May Meetings

May 1, 7:00 p.m. City Council
May 3, 4:00 p.m. Look Fund Committee Meeting
May 4, 12:00 p.m. Downtown Development Authority
May 6, 8:00 a.m. Coffee with the Council
10:00 a.m. City Council Budget Work Session
May 8, 12:00 p.m. Arbor Board
3:30 p.m. Fire Authority
7:00 p.m. City Planning Commission
May 10, 6:00 p.m. Lowell Area Recreation Authority
7:00 p.m. Airport Board
May 11, 6:00 p.m. Lowell Light & Power
May 15, 7:00 p.m. Lowell City Council
May 16, 6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Commission
May 17, 4:00 p.m. Look Fund Committee Meeting
May 23, 6:00 p.m. Lowell Historic District Commission