



Issue April 2017

City Council

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Greg Canfield, Councilmember
James Hodges, Councilmember
Jeff Phillips, Councilmember
Alan Teelander, Councilmember

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A place to play Let's plan for fun in our future

It's peaceful to sit along the river with a line in the water. It's refreshing to play at the beach. It's exciting to ice skate with your children for the first time. And it's relaxing to connect with family and friends at a concert by the Showboat.

Parks in our community give us a place to relax, play and come together as a community. The Parks and Recreation Commission has the job of making sure we have the recreation amenities and facilities to serve residents adequately. These spaces make Lowell an attractive and appealing community to live in or visit.



Every five years, the Parks and Recreation Commission takes a step back to look at what we have, what needs to be updated, what needs to be repaired and ask if we need anything else. This year is the time to update the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan for 2017-2022. By keeping this plan updated on this schedule, Lowell is eligible to apply for grant funding from the State of Michigan.



As part of the plan update, the Commission is asking for your input. **The City of Lowell Parks and Recreation Community Survey** is being conducted to find out what you use, what you like, what else you want and what can be improved. The survey is available now until Sunday, April 16th online or on paper. Online the survey can be found on the City website

homepage or the City of Lowell, Michigan Facebook page. Paper copies can be obtained at City Hall, the library or the Lowell Light and Power offices. Paper surveys must be returned to City Hall on or before Monday, April 17th.

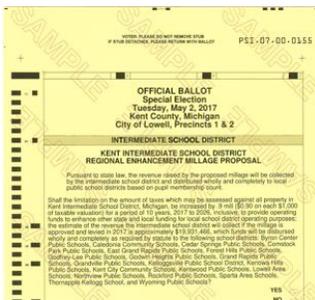
So, have your say! Our parks are wonderful places. The Parks and Recreation Commission really appreciate a few minutes of your time to share your thoughts. It will make the Plan better for all of us. If you have any questions, contact City Hall.

Crunching the numbers

City Council will be digging into the proposed budget on May 6th. Although the full day has been set aside for this review, Council hopes to get through it in 4-5 hours beginning at 10:00 a.m. The public is welcome to sit in on the discussion in the Lowell Light & Power Board Room. If you would like to see the draft prior to the meeting, it will be available to the public after the April 17th City Council meeting.

Time to vote

Once again, you can have your say on May 2nd. To vote in the May election, you must be registered no later than April 3rd at 5:00 p.m. This time, it's a Kent Intermediate School District Millage request for 0.9 mills. The funds would be distributed to several schools within KISD. City Hall will be open Saturday, April 29, 2017 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. for those needing last minute absentee ballots.



A sample ballot is available on the City website or at City Hall.

Council seats on the ballot

After more than two decades of service, Jim Hodges will step down at the end of his term this November. In addition to his departure, there are two other Council members up for re-election.

If someone wishes to run for a City Council position, they must file a nominating petition with the City Clerk by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2017; deadline to withdraw your name from the ballot is Friday, April 28, 2017 by 4 p.m. If there are seven or more candidates, there will be a City Primary on

Tuesday, August 8, 2017. The primary will reduce the amount of candidates to six that will be on the ballot in the City General Election on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

Spruce up for spring

As spring clean up begins, yard waste begins to pile up. Since the City no longer contracts waste removal, residents need to think about what they are going to do with all that organic material. Waste haulers in this area offer yard waste removal services. Contact your carrier to learn about your options. Most carriers begin yard waste pick up April 1st.

Still have one?

Remember the red recycle bins the City provided while they were still contracting waste removal? You put down a deposit when you picked it up. If you would like to get your deposit back, you need to return the bin to City Hall no later than April 28th. If you wait until Monday, May 1st to return your bin, you do not get your deposit back. Don't wait!

The frisky season is upon us

Spring fever takes hold of our four legged friends, as well. The energy and exuberance can be contagious spurring us on to bouts of running wildly through the neighborhood. Just be considerate of your neighbors, please.

Both dogs and cats need a bit of management to be good citizens. Remember to keep Fido and Tabby on their leashes, clean up after them when outside of your yard and manage their noise levels. Also, females in heat must be contained.



April Meetings

- April 1, 8:00 a.m. Coffee with the Council
- April 3, 7:00 p.m. City Council
- April 6, 12:00 p.m. Rescheduled Downtown Development Authority
- April 10, 12:00 p.m. Arbor Board
3:30 p.m. Canceled - Fire Authority
7:00 p.m. City Planning Commission
- April 12, 6:00 p.m. Lowell Area Recreation Authority
7:00 p.m. Airport Board
- April 13, 12:00 p.m. Downtown Development Authority
6:00 p.m. Lowell Light & Power
- April 17, 7:00 p.m. Lowell City Council
- April 18, 6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Commission
- April 21, 4:00 p.m. Lowell Community Fund Grants Due
- April 25, 4:00 p.m. Last Date to File Nominating Petitions
6:00 p.m. Lowell Historic District Commission
- April 28, 4:00 p.m. Look Fund Grants Due

For more information, check out the City Ordinance section of our website or call City Hall.