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Special Survey on the Library Lot & City Administrator included!
Next on the Agenda, updates on the budget talks, and what's on the horizon.



First Ward News and Update

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Dear neighbors,

This Friday (April 1) you can go downtown for Fool Moon (illuminated puppets on parade). On Sunday (April 3) you can go to Main Street for Festifools (more giant dancing puppets). Any time this weekend you can do what I'm going to do - cut up my Christmas tree and get ready for the first compost pickup of the year.

Hooray for that, and how I wish it were warmer! It's supposed to warm up a little by the weekend, and I intend to spend Friday outside cleaning the garden and getting ready for that first truck of the year.

If you need compost, then you can get as much as 6 bushels (one cubic yard) of compost free using your own containers any Saturday between April 16 and May 28 from 8:00 am to noon, while supplies last (go to the *Materials Recovery Facility Scalehouse on Ellsworth*). Bring your current water bill and driver's license, please, to confirm that you are an Ann Arbor resident.

If you want to purchase compost or mulch, you can get it for ½ price if you've signed up for the Recyclebank program (at www.recyclebank.com). Compost and mulch are on sale starting in April for \$15/cubic yard.

For more information, click [here](#).

The City Administrator

You may have heard that the City Administrator has resigned to take a new position with the Snyder administration in Lansing. I



Coffee wakes some of us up

For the last three weeks I've been holding office hours (7:30 to 9 on Mondays at the Northside Grill). I've talked with people about the Library Lot project, street resurfacing, union contracts (I'm not on that committee), and the weather. No one likes the weather. Recently I was joined by an AATA board member, who showed up for coffee and breakfast, and stayed to talk about the AATA budget. I just never know what will happen. When I have a quiet moment, I work on Council business -- and, of course, I eat breakfast. The Northside Grill should benefit, since I'm occupying their booth. They have French Roast and are polite. They put up with political talk early in the morning. If you see me there, please wave, and if you have time, please, join me for coffee and a chat.



What am I

was appointed to the search committee for an interim City Administrator as well as recommending a process for selecting a new City Administrator. I'm both surprised and honored to serve.

I'd love to hear from you about the specific strengths you would like Council members to look for in a new City Administrator (the City is run by the Administrator, not by the Mayor and Council). Right now my short list includes: management experience as well as private sector experience; skills managing people; decent financial oversight skills; strong communication skills; strong skills working with and negotiating with unions. A plus would be an ability to work with the Council and the community to develop a vision for Ann Arbor's future. The goal is to have someone in this position by late summer.

The Library Lot

Not a day goes by that I don't hear from someone about the proposal to build a conference center and hotel on the Library Lot. On the street, while I've stopped for coffee, at an event . . . casual conversation just turns to this topic. So does more directed conversation, as some people go out of their way to either call or write to make certain I know where they stand.

On March 14th the Council held a working session on the proposed Letter of Intent (LOI) with a representative from the Roxbury Group (the consultant). At that time, the City Administrator proposed that the Council vote on whether or not to accept a final version of the LOI on the 19th of April. Council member Rapundalo requested a public hearing be set for the 19th, as well.

At this time, I have no idea what the LOI would include. Certainly, it should not include all of the details (the parking, the financial structure) that were included in the draft LOI, as the Council learned that these details were still in negotiation.

Council meeting on April 19th

reading?

I spend a lot of time reading. I read about other communities, Lansing government, development and planning policy, transportation planning . . .

Here's my current and recent reading list:

Anything I can find about selecting a new City Manager or City Administrator.

101 Things you Didn't Know about Ann Arbor, by Horace Martin Woodhouse (I knew a lot of them!)

I'm re-reading Switch- how to change when change is hard and Made to Stick: Why some ideas survive and others die, both by Chip and Dan Heath. I think Switch is a must for anyone dealing with people and organizations.



Survey This!

Here's the latest opportunity to take a quick survey.

As always, responses are anonymous.

Click [here](#) for the survey.

Really. Take the survey. And thanks!

The Council meeting for April 19th will be very crowded. In addition to the proposed LOI for the Library Lot - and the public hearing for that proposal - there will be *two* public hearings on medical marijuana. The medical marijuana zoning and licensing ordinances are both scheduled for final reading on that date.

In addition, the City Administrator will present the proposed budget to Council that night *and* the Council's search committee will present its recommendations for an interim appointment as well as the process for selecting and hiring a new City Administrator.

If you feel that this is an important meeting, I recommend either watching or recording (or both).

On the Agenda

The April 4th agenda is about as light as it can be, but as I write this (Thursday evening, March 30th) it is still subject to change. There are two public presentations (one is an update about 415 W. Washington). There are no public hearings. There is only one ordinance change proposed - a first reading - to amend the 'solicitation' ordinance regarding panhandling. Since I chaired the task force that recommended the changes proposed, I'm sponsoring this ordinance.

There is a resolution to approve an agreement with the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) for the construction of the AATA Washtenaw Avenue east bound bus turnout project and another to award a construction contract to Fonson, Inc. (\$159,107.31; Bid No. 4131) to build the turnout:

The first resolution establishes a construction fund (\$237,107.31 total) with the City using funds from AATA; the other awards a contract using some of those funds. This bus turnout will replace the major bus stop that used to be at Arborland.

The total project cost is estimated at \$237,107.31 as shown below:

Construction Contract	\$159,107.31
Street Light Relocations	\$15,000.00
Construction Engineering and Inspection	\$26,500.00
Construction Materials Testing	\$5,500.00
Contingency	\$17,500.00
<u>Miscellaneous Expenses</u>	<u>\$13,500.00</u>
TOTAL	\$237,107.31

There are a few street closings (Art Fair and the Dexter/Ann

Arbor & Burns Park Runs). There are a couple of resolutions to buy used furniture, and a couple more accepting and giving easements.

Solicitation Ordinance revisions

The Mayor's Street Outreach Task Force recommended the following (red line) revisions to the Solicitation ordinance. The addition of paragraph 4 is to ensure safe, pedestrian passage between streets. The addition of a safety zone at the entrance of the downtown Library is to allow Library patrons the opportunity to enter and exit without harassment. Members of Council will see this recommendation on Monday, but should hold a public hearing and vote on the ordinance change no sooner than 30 days thereafter.

The entire report is available [here](#). I've already talked with some of you about this report. I'd love to hear from you.

9:70.- Solicitation.

Except as otherwise provided in Chapters 79 and 81 of this Code, it shall be unlawful for any person to solicit the immediate payment of money or goods from another person, whether or not in exchange for goods, services, or other consideration, under any of the following circumstances:

1. On private property, except as otherwise permitted by Chapters 79 and 81, unless the solicitor has permission from the owner or occupant;
2. On any public transportation vehicle or public transportation facility;
3. In any public parking structure and within 12 feet of any entrance or exit to any public parking structure;
4. In any public alley and within 12 feet of any entrance or exit to any public alley, as that term is defined in Title I, Chapter 1, section 1:8 of the Ann Arbor City Code:
5. From a person who is in any vehicle on the street;
6. By obstructing the free passage of pedestrian or vehicle traffic;
7. Within 12 feet of a bank or automated teller machine;
8. By moving to within 2 feet of the person solicited, unless that person has indicated that he/she wishes to be solicited;
9. By following and continuing to solicit a person who walks away from the solicitor;
10. By knowingly making a false or misleading representation in the course of a solicitation;
11. In a manner that appears likely to cause a reasonable person

of ordinary sensibilities to feel intimidated, threatened or harassed;

12. Within 12 feet of the entrance to or exit from the Nickels Arcade, located between State Street and Maynard Street; the Galleria, located between S. University and the Forest Street parking structure; the Pratt Building, located between Main Street and the Ashley parking lot; [the Ann Arbor District Library](#),

[located at the corner of 5th Avenue and William Street](#) or

13. From a person who is a patron at any outdoor cafe or restaurant.

A resolution to authorize the DDA to plan for the redevelopment of city-owned parcels downtown

I've had a lot of conversations (with mostly the same few people) about this proposal. And this is the third time this resolution has appeared on the agenda; the language hasn't changed, as near as I can tell. There has also been no new information about this resolution provided to members of Council.

If you want to know more about the resolution, click [here](#) for a link to the Council's agenda and the text of the resolution:

If you have questions or comments about any issue on the agenda, please let me know.



Talking about the Budget

The City Administrator will present his budget to Council on Monday, April



Care to participate?

There are a number of opportunities to participate or give feedback to the City. On Wednesday, April 13, the City will hold a Town Hall meeting on the Budget. The City Administrator, Roger

11th at a working session (public and televised). On Wednesday, April 13, the City Administrator will hold a Town Hall Meeting (7:00 pm, CTN Studio, 2805 S. Industrial, Suite 200). There's space for the public at this event, and time to ask some questions.

If you want to ask more questions, or don't care to be on TV, I'll be sending out dates in the next week or so for some Town Hall meetings here in the First Ward. I'm still setting up dates and places, but all meetings will be an opportunity for you to be certain your priorities are heard. I'll be certain to have copies of the budget available, too.

[Here's](#) a link to all the information I've seen on the budget so far:

Fraser, will present his last budget to community at this event, and will answer questions about the budget. 7:00 pm, CTN, see above. The City is circulating a survey of drivers and pedestrians to see how well we understand mid-walk crosswalks. You can take this survey by going to the City's website here:

www.a2gov.org/WalkBikeDrive

I took it and learned a lot about our signage as a result.

Tour the new Justice Center. Well, some people want to do this, and the City is hosting a tour at 10 am on April 16 (a Saturday).

Turn off your lights at 11, and don't turn them back on before 6 am -- that is, if you're in a building taller than 5 stories. This helps the migrating birds find their way at night. Honest.

And if you want to vote in the May election, register on Monday, April 4. It's the last day.

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