



# CITY OF IONIA

Spring 2017

**2017 Infrastructure Projects:** The City Council has approved contracts for completing the following two major infrastructure projects during the 2017 construction season:

A contract with CL Trucking & Excavating, Ionia, for improvements to **Brooks Street, Hackett Street (Harter Street to State Street), Harter Street and Taylor Court.** Improvements to be completed include utility replacement, sidewalk, curb and driveway approach replacement, and a new street surface. Work is tentatively scheduled to begin on the Brooks Street portion of the project during the week of April 10 and progress to Harter Street and then Hackett Street and Taylor Court. This project should be completed by mid August. During construction, access to Emerson School will be via State Street only.

A contract with Montgomery Excavating, Ionia, for improvements to **Library Street, Rich Street (Lafayette to East Main Street), and Washington Street (Kidd Street to Jefferson Street).** Improvements to be completed include utility replacement, sidewalk, curb and driveway approach replacement, and a new street surface.

The first phase of this project involves Library Street and Washington Street (Kidd Street to Rich Street), which is scheduled to begin the week of April 10 and be substantially complete (through the base course of asphalt) by June 19. However, Library Street will remain closed until late Spring 2018 to accommodate the staging of construction equipment associated with the Court House addition project. The second phase of the project will include the two referenced blocks of Rich Street and Washington Street from Rich Street to Jefferson Street. This phase is tentatively scheduled to begin on June 26 and be completed by mid October. Note that at times during both phases of the project, East Main Street will be closed to thru traffic to accommodate side street utility connections. Adams Street will be the posted detour route.

Including professional engineering services, these projects total \$4.3 million in community reinvestment. During construction, all streets will be open to local traffic only.

**Install Yard Meters Before Summer Watering Season:** A reminder that in 2008, the practice of providing lawn sprinkling/pool filling credits on the quarterly utility bills was discontinued. Instead, a policy regarding the installation of yard meters was implemented in an effort to provide discounts for water used for these purposes. As an alternative to paying the full sanitary sewer charge on water used, a property owner (at their expense) may have a second meter (the yard meter) installed to measure only the amount of water used for outside (lawn, pool, garden) purposes and not sewer usage. The meter is read each December with consumption billed accordingly. In addition to there not being any sanitary sewer charges on the yard meter bill, a second facilities maintenance charge **IS NOT** charged.

**City Income Taxes – 2016 Filings:** A reminder that City income taxes are due April 30 for everyone residing or working in the City. City income tax forms are available at City Hall, the Ionia Community Library, or on the City's website at [www.ci.ionia.mi.us](http://www.ci.ionia.mi.us). A reminder that Turbo Tax and other home software tax programs will not e-file a City return, even if you e-file your state and federal returns; so be sure to print your City return and either mail it to City Hall or place it in the Drop Box in front of City Hall. Questions regarding the City income tax may be directed to [incometax@ci.ionia.mi.us](mailto:incometax@ci.ionia.mi.us) or 523-0142.

**Hydrant Flushing Continues Into April/May:** Hydrant flushing by Public Utilities staff will continue during April and early May. Staff began flushing the City's water system during mid March. Hours of flushing are 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM and 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM. MDEQ requires a semiannual flushing process to provide an opportunity to clean the water distribution system, operate valves, and conduct fire hydrant inspections. Although your water may become discolored during flushing, it is safe to use. When staff is working in your neighborhood, use caution when doing laundry. If your water becomes discolored, run your outside faucets for a few minutes until it clears.

**Outdoor Warning Sirens:** Seasonal severe weather is cause for alarm. The City is equipped with tornado sirens that are activated when notification of a tornado warning is received. The sirens sound three one minute blasts separated by 10 seconds of silence. This is the signal for residents to seek IMMEDIATE shelter. An all clear signal is not provided, so it is recommended that you monitor local radio or television channels for updates.

**Spring Dump-Your-Junk Day:** The annual citywide Spring Dump-Your-Junk Day (DYJD) will be held on Saturday, April 29. Dumpsters will be available at the City's Public Works Garage, 303 South Jackson Street. DYJD begins at 8:00 AM and continues until Noon, or until all the dumpsters have been filled. Materials **NOT ACCEPTED** include lead acid batteries, yard waste, hazardous waste, liquids of any kind, radioactive materials, barrels or drums which are not empty and crushed, compressed gas cylinders which are not empty and disable, appliances containing Freon (unless a valid reclamation sticker is attached). Again this year, the County will be conducting a household hazardous waste collection at the same location. For more information, visit their website at [www.ioniacounty.org](http://www.ioniacounty.org).

**Spring Yard Waste/Brush Pickup Program:** The City will remove brush and bagged yard waste during the week of April 24, pursuant to the program guidelines listed here: All brush and bagged yard waste must be placed streetside by 7:00 AM, Monday, April 24, since streets will be covered one time only.

**Yard Waste Removal Guidelines:** The purpose of this program is to remove non brush yard waste that is generated through spring yard cleanup (leaves, twigs, garden waste, etc.). All yard waste **MUST** be placed in paper (biodegradable) bags (i.e., kraft) which are available for purchase at local hardware/home improvement stores. Loose yard waste and/or yard waste in plastic trash bags **WILL NOT** be removed.

**Brush Pickup Guidelines:** The purpose of this program is to remove brush from routine lawn maintenance and not to remove brush associated with tree removal. Brush placed by the streetside may not be larger than 8" in diameter and not longer than 8' long so that it can be handled by removal equipment. Brush larger than 8" in size may be disposed of directly by the property owner at the City's compost site off Apple Tree Drive.

#### **City Code Reminders:**

**Front Yard Parking:** City Code prohibits front yard parking. Specifically, the City Code states "that no person shall park a vehicle, trailer or watercraft in a front yard within a residential district of the City, nor on or over any public sidewalk." The City Code further states that a "front yard...means that part of a lot, other than a driveway, between the curb or street line and the main building on the lot. . ."

**Long Grass:** Grass on developed lots may not exceed 6" in height. Failure to mow regularly can result in the City's Department of Public Works doing so and the property owner being charged for the service.

**Parks and Recreation:** Visit the City website at [www.ci.ioina.mi.us](http://www.ci.ioina.mi.us), click on the Parks and Recreation graphic button, and then make your selection: Youth programs, Adult programs, or Special events.

- ◆ **Tumble Bumble Bee's Gymnastics** ~ Classes begin April 10. \$60 per child for an 8-week session. "Mommy and Me" is for ages under 3; "Gymnastics Only" is for ages 3-5 and 6-12.
- ◆ **Ionia Youth Soccer** ~ Boys & Girls ages 4-10 (age by April 20). **Divisions:** Under 6, Under 8, and 10 & Under. Practices begin the week of April 10 in front of the High School. Games start April 20 every Thursday for 6 weeks.
- ◆ **T-Ball** ~ Boys & Girls ages 3-6 (age 6 by May 10). Two co-ed divisions. Division 1: 3 & 4 year olds. Division 2: 5 & 6 year olds. Register now through April 7. Games begin May 10 and run for 6 weeks.
- ◆ **Summer Softball** ~ Men and Women 18 years and older. Register by 5:00 PM on April 14.
- ◆ **Summer Day Camp** ~ Hale Park (Division Street/Lincoln Avenue) from June 12 - July 14. Children ages 5-12. Cost is \$170/child for City Residents and \$190/child for Non-Residents. **Registration ends June 7.** Field trips are included in the registration fee. **60 Kids Maximum.** Camp is held 9 AM-3 PM, Monday through Friday.
- ◆ **Easter Egg Hunt** ~ Thursday, April 13, 5:30 PM; Sponsored by 5/3 Bank. The Parks & Recreation Department will hold this free event for ages 10 and under. To be held at the Harwood Sports Complex, 2191 Harwood Road.

**Wizard of OZ-Ionia Festival:** Saturday, June 17. A parade, special guests, our very own Oz characters, vendors, look-a-like contests, vintage trailers, car show, and concessionaires are just a few of the highlights. For more information, visit the Wizard of Oz-Ionia Facebook page, the City website, and/or contact DDA Director Linda Curtis at 527-1420.

A 'Drop Box' is available in front of City Hall 24/7 for your convenience.