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First Ward News -- Sabra Briere, Ann Arbor City Council.  
On the agenda, updates and what's on the horizon.

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## Sabra Briere

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Dear neighbors,

I hope your holidays were a delight, that you had time with friends and family, that your health held up and that you've greeted the new year with enthusiasm.

I also hope you are enjoying the winter so far. I know I am. What could be better than sun and (relatively) warm temperatures? OK, that trip to the south . . . but Michigan remains beautiful.

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Over the last couple of weeks I took the time to see exactly what the City Council accomplished last year. I read through every agenda, read the minutes (again), and considered the impact of those decisions. You may be curious to know what I found - so I wrote up a short paper on the 10 most significant decisions made by the City Council during 2011.

If you'd like to read it, I've a link to it [here](#).

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## On the Agenda

### Ordinances (First Reading)

The Council will vote on rezoning the Brookfield

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Commercial Development PUD to the [Arlington Square](#)

PUD for this project in [Washtenaw](#) & [Huron Park](#)

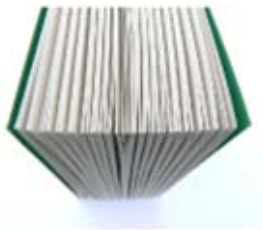
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## Coffee wakes some of us up

I hold office hours 7:30 to 9 am on Mondays at the Northside Grill. But for the past couple of Monday's, I've been missing in action. Nasty, nasty virus attack (and I lost). But I'll be back to work tomorrow (Monday, January 9th), and back to my cup of dark roast coffee. If you see me at the Northside, please join me for a chat.



## What am I reading?

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

But lately, I've been reading some of the books we received for the holiday -- books on history

The ordinance would amend the zoning first approved in 1989 and would apply the current PUD regulations.

## Resolutions

### Water

There are a series of three stormwater management projects (Leslie Park Golf Course, Willard Street and West Madison) that require approval for working with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner.

There's also a tree-planting project that requires approval from the Water Resources Commissioner, and a contract to mitigate a wetland at the Wheeler Maintenance Facility. Additionally, the City is seeking approval to issue a revenue bond for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (not to exceed \$120 Million).

### Land Use

The City is seeking approval to partner with the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation to purchase land in Superior Township using Greenbelt millage dollars (\$172,868). The Wheeler Maintenance Facility is asking for approval of a Land Management Plan for the Conservation Easement (the wetland to be mitigated, above).

### Events

There are a couple of street closings for events (Shamrocks and Shenanigans; the African American Festival).

### Transportation

AATA is seeking approval of the [4-party plan](#).

This approval would be the first step in the process toward dissolving AATA and creating a new transit authority (called the NEW TA) that would be supported and would provide service county-wide. Before the 4-party plan could go into effect, the County Commission would have to approve the [articles of incorporation](#).

There's a long history behind AATA, the millage that supports public transportation, and the effort to create a new transit authority.

I expect this resolution to be postponed. Before the

and a murder mystery or two.

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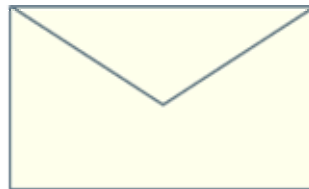
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Everyone needs a little time to enjoy a good book!

Council votes on this, I anticipate that a funding mechanism will be established, and a public hearing before Council will be held. I've asked for a public hearing already.

Look for this to come back before Council in February or March.



### I get mail

When I joined the City Council I made a commitment to myself to be as responsive as possible. I read every email and consider carefully the concerns you express. So, what are you and your neighbors concerned about recently? Merchants and residents in the downtown are really concerned about the proliferation of **graffiti**. The police are working with the merchants to identify and stop the 'artists' who repeatedly decorate others' buildings. The City's graffiti ordinance requires that property owners clean the graffiti off of their buildings; the DDA has arranged for some stores to provide the cleaning supplies.



### Important meetings and links

**Tracking the wild snowplow.** Do you want to be able to track snowplows as they move through your neighborhood? While routes may change for each snowfall, as the City plows those streets that will receive trash and recycle pickup on the next day first, I hope you'll see where the plows are - whenever we do get that heavy snow. Here's a [link](#) to the page where you can track those plows as they move through our neighborhoods.

[City Of Ann Arbor](#)

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The Occupy Ann Arbor

encampment at Liberty Plaza

Plaza remains a sore point for some of us. The City has been non-confrontational but has also prevented the Occupy movement from using heaters or becoming too comfortable. Several individuals involved in the Occupy movement hope to work with the City to establish and staff a daytime warming shelter for some street people; this would not be at Liberty Plaza.

**Domestic Partner Benefits**

have been in the news recently, and as a result, some people have voiced concern about the City's policies regarding domestic partnerships. Although I've been unable to get firm information about the financial impact yet, I understand from published reports that fewer than 10 staff members have taken advantage of this program. The City required that domestic partners (same sex or opposite sex) prove that they've lived together for at least 18 months prior to applying for these benefits. The City also has a domestic partnership registration program; I know a couple (opposite sex) who registered as domestic partners rather

Discussion: Resource



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Management

The Ann Arbor District Library and the City of Ann Arbor will hold the first in a series of discussion on the City's environmental plans on Thursday January 12, 2012: 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm -- Downtown Library: Multi-Purpose Room

This is the first in a series of four monthly discussions that examines natural areas, waste reduction, recycling, compost, local food systems, water and air quality. Panelists include City of Ann Arbor staff members, city commissioners, representatives from community organizations and UM faculty. Each of these sessions will examine past successes and challenges, discuss possible future priorities and feature a think tank of local stakeholders. [Read more](#) for details about this series.

For Ann Arbor's current environmental goals, check out the [State of Our Environment Report](#).

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than get married.

AATA and the 4-party

agreement, the Library Lot, and Fuller Road Station continue to be topics for some of us.

And one of our neighbors wrote to point out that a light was mis-timed. The staff checked, fixed the light, and reported back. That's what I like to see.

Please let me know about your concerns. I'll try to answer questions, and get results.

Public meeting on

changes at Leslie

Science and Nature

Center. The City will

hold a public meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19 at 7

p.m. to discuss the

development of a

pedestrian circulation

master plan for Leslie

Science & Nature Center.

The plan would address

barrier-free access,

wayfinding through the

site, parking and

drainage issues. Here's a

[link](#) to the flyer.

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