

Dear neighbors,

I don't usually bother you twice in one month. I'm sorry to do so.

## **On Fuller Road Station**

Earlier this month I wrote a brief update about the Fuller Road Station. Since that time, I've learned that the Council will probably not vote on this project in November, but will have a working session to discuss it in late November or early December, followed by a vote -- perhaps December or January.

Any additional information I receive I will be happy to share.

## **On Argo Pond / Argo Dam**

The City received proposals for both a fix for the berm and a reconstruction of the berm. The reconstruction would remove the portage at Broadway Bridge by changing the head race into some other type of flowing waterway that would work for canoes and kayaks. The Parks Advisory Commission will have a presentation on these proposals on Tuesday, October 19th. I'm reviewing copies of the proposals received, if anyone would like to see them -- they aren't electronic, only paper.

The City must make a decision quickly about what it will do; apply for all necessary permits by February; begin construction by June and complete all construction work by next November. It's a very tight schedule. I anticipate another working session on Argo Pond / Argo Dam in the next month or so.

## **On Stadium Bridges funding**

Personally, I'm really pleased that the City was finally able to leverage some funds from the Federal government to help with paying for the reconstruction of the Stadium Bridges. The City had applied for TIGER grant funding almost as soon as this funding was announced; the City's application just wasn't strong enough last year to make a compelling case. This year, the City staff learned from that failure and applied those lessons. They worked closely with State and UM staff to craft an application (with supporting documents) that showed how vital the Stadium Bridges are to the economy of this region. The pre-application last Spring was approved, which meant the City could apply for TIGER II grant funds.

In competition with communities all over the US, the City submitted its application in late August. At that time, press coverage acknowledged that the City hoped to hear -- one way or the other -- in October. The City was also clear that, if these Federal dollars weren't available, street millage dollars would be used to replace the bridges.

I was really excited on Friday morning to read in AnnArbor.com that the TIGER II funds had been granted. This construction project budget is anticipated as being about \$23 million; the Federal dollars are nearly \$14 million. So, with a combination of sanitary sewer, storm sewer, and other utilities paying for part of the construction (underground utility repair and replacement across Stadium), the Streets millage won't have to pay for nearly as much -- well under \$9 million. That's exciting to me, as it means other streets will be repaired next summer and in subsequent years.

Maintaining the infrastructure should be our highest priority.

## On leaves

Several of you have pointed out that the leaves are falling -- into the streets. I met with Sue McCormick, the Administrator of Public Services, on Friday. At that meeting, among other topics, we discussed what to do with the leaves that land in the gutters.

1. The City will be sweeping the streets, just as they do each fall.
2. Because the trucks won't be scooping, shoving, and otherwise running over the dried leaves, she expects the leaves will be in bigger pieces -- and not fall down the storm sewers as quickly. That's both good and bad news -- as we all have to un-clog the storm sewers or face some serious problems during a heavy rain.
3. Some of us -- those who can and choose to do so -- will sweep up the leaves from the streets as we pick up our other leaves, bag or compost them, and help with keeping the streets clear.

I've cleared my gutter more often so far this Fall than ever before. I will just have to be more vigilant -- and look forward to that street sweeper sometime in November.

## Agenda for Monday, October 18

**Area, Height and Placement** -- the rezoning that was supposed to be on the agenda two weeks ago -- was postponed. We may vote on this issue tomorrow (October 18) -- or not.

**Extending the Glen Ann Place PUD** -- this item was postponed from the meeting two weeks ago and considered first by the Historic District Commission. The order of these two considerations and votes was, members of Council were told, not important. Freed wants a 5-year extension; City staff recommends a 2-year extension. The resolution calls for a 2-year extension.

**Medical Marijuana zoning** -- this item is up for First Reading, not a vote. If you have questions or concerns, or need to see the proposed zoning language, please let me know. I'll put the language on my (repaired) web site fairly quickly, but not today.

**Funding for updating master plans** -- this item increases the budget for Planning by amending the Fiscal Year 2011 budget to allow unspent funds from Fiscal Year 2010, earmarked for updating master plans, to be spent in FY2011. The amount of unspent funds is \$113,156.39. In addition to finishing the master plans currently underway, the Planning staff and Planning Commission expect to work on corridor studies for South State Street, Plymouth Road, and North Main Street.

## Today

I have a busy day. I'm going campaigning -- for Democrats -- at 1, a forum for Bias Awareness Week (I'm speaking) at 4, and Caucus at 7. It's not a day for me to relax and cook or take a long walk.

I do hope you can do something relaxing today.

Sabra

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