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City of Eaton Rapids
Michigan

City of Eaton Rapids Newsletter

March Newsletter

March 21, 2007

Greetings!

Welcome to the City of Eaton Rapids on-line newsletter.

This newsletter is intended to keep you up to date on what is happening in Eaton Rapids. Your e-mail has been added to our database as an interested community member. If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please see the bottom of this newsletter for the unsubscribe link.

We are interested in your feedback on this newsletter. Over the coming weeks and months our format and content will evolve to provide the best product for you. Please let us know how we can improve this newsletter by e-mailing us at breed@ci.eaton-rapids.mi.us.

Thank you!

What is happening Down by the river?



The only major items yet to be constructed with the Wastewater Treatment Plant are the new sanitary sewer river crossings. The initial "bore and jack" construction method had to be halted recently, due to the uncooperative geological soil conditions beneath the Grand River. An alternative method that would use a "coffer dam" during construction is currently pending approval by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. This project should be completed by mid summer.

Hall Street Properties

The City of Eaton Rapids is currently preparing a grant application to the Michigan State Housing Development Authority for a facade improvement grant for the Hall Street District.

The Downtown Development Authority is currently in negotiations to sell the Hall Street Buildings to a development group. For more information, contact Executive Director, Doug Stevenson at 517-663-8118 ext 8101.

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Downtown Loft Ribbon Cutting Ceremony - March 30th!



The City of Eaton Rapids will celebrate its first loft apartment completed with a grant from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The completed loft is the 3rd story of the Evelyn Bay Coffee Shop, a building owned by Dr. Joe Sheneman.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will be on Friday March

Spring Clean-up

Spring is right around the corner and that means spring clean up. Residents are reminded that the City does not pick up brush unless there has been a major storm. You may drop off your brush and grass clippings at the Department of Public Works.

30th, 1:30pm, at 203 S. Main. An open house will follow until 3:30pm.

City Parking Lot Update

As you may or may not know, the City of Eaton Rapids won a grant in May 2006 to build a new parking lot behind the existing parking lot located behind Pettits Hardware. This project includes some riverbank stabilization and the construction of rain gardens in order to prevent stormwater runoff into the river.

The City applied for and was awarded \$243,000 last year to assist building owners downtown convert upper floors to affordable living space.

The City has completed the engineering and is working with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to secure all the needed permits and construction is scheduled to begin in August.

The City is currently working with four different building owners and will ultimately create five new apartments and will upgrade nearly five more.

Eaton Rapids Relay For Life

There is plenty going on with this year's Relay for Life! Plenty of fun events have been scheduled including:

--Scrapbooking fundraiser

- March 24th 10am to 10pm, contact [Christie Koenigsnecht](#) for details at 517-819-2710.

--Canoe Trip

to Bunker Road Landing

--Celebrity Server

- May 6th at Darbs from 12pm to 6pm. Come down and eat, all tips go to Relay for Life.

--Golf Outing

- May 12th at Duck Lake Country Club. Contact [Paul Kennaugh](#) at 290-5243 for more info or click here for more details.

This program will have a large impact on the downtown and business owners.

The next team meeting is scheduled for April 3rd at 6pm at City Hall. The Relay For Life Committee needs more teams! The goal is 30 teams. For more information contact Amy Butler (663-3080) or Sally Gatlin (242-6879). Team registration can also be done online at the [Eaton Rapids Relay for Life webpage](#).

Dr. Sheneman was very pleased with MSHDA's rental rehabilitation program and how his project evolved. "It was very simple, no red tape, and was easy to work through. It is a great opportunity to improve the downtown community as well as a wise investment for business owners."

This year's Relay For Life of Eaton Rapids will take place May 18-19 from 3:00PM to 3:00PM at the Eaton Rapids High School. For more information about the kick-off, and to RSVP, contact Tami Nykamp at 517.664.1410.

Waste Water Treatment Plant Update

Construction is nearly completed on the City's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades. The project started twenty eight months ago, in October of 2004, at a cost of nearly \$10 million. The funding will be paid with the extra mileage that was approved by the citizens of Eaton Rapids in 2004.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade will help insure that the City continues to stay in compliance with the State of Michigan National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit during high wastewater flow events through the use of a newly constructed flow equalization tank. Additionally, new process pumps, valves and piping throughout



the facility will alleviate the troublesome, and costly, corrective maintenance repairs caused by the 27 year old treatment plant equipment before the upgrade began. A newly constructed headworks building housing grit removal equipment, a new Ultra-violet disinfection process, and new secondary clarifier were also part of this renovation. The new Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) computerized process control system monitors the entire treatment process and is mostly functional while certain control parameters are still in a proving stage.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant now has more capacity, provides more reliability and safety, and is more efficient.

National Historic Register

The Historic Preservation Masters Program at Eastern Michigan University has been working in Eaton Rapids since September researching the historic downtown buildings. This DDA sponsored project has the ultimate goal of getting the Downtown of Eaton Rapids on the National Register of Historic Places. Attaining that honor requires a significant amount of research and inventory of all buildings in the downtown.

A place on the register would be a tremendous boon for the City. It would open up many different grant opportunities for historic preservation. For example, America's Treasures grants are a promising avenue for preserving Red Ribbon Hall and possibly the Island wall. The Eastern Michigan students will be presenting their second semester research at a public meeting on April 26, 2007, 6:30pm, at City Hall.

Ordinance Enforcement

The City of Eaton Rapids wants its residents to be aware of several ordinances it will be enforcing this summer. These ordinances are intended to improve the safety and quality of life for everyone in Eaton Rapids.

View our [Property Maintenance Ordinance](#)

View our [Noxious Weeds Ordinance](#)

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