



Issue March 2017

#### City Council

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James Hodges, Councilmember  
Jeff Phillips, Councilmember  
Alan Teelander, Councilmember

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#### Police Department

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#### Police Chief

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#### Public Works Department

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#### DPW Director

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## DPW gets a few upgrades Old equipment has served us well for many years

Equipment gets older and becomes more difficult to repair. Eventually, suppliers stop making replacement parts and then it costs more to keep it running than to replace it. Some of the equipment at the Department of Public Works has reached that point and is being replaced.

The new 2017 Caterpillar front-end loader is used to load snowplow trucks with salt, move aggregate for water and sewer repair projects, move tree stumps, clear large piles of snow and other projects moving heavy loads. The Caterpillar replaces a 1983 Clark front-end loader that has been auctioned off after 34 years of service to our community.

The 2017 Bobcat replaces a 1995 New Holland skid steer. The Bobcat comes with two buckets, forks and a snow blower. It is used for sidewalk snow



removal and projects in smaller areas where other equipment doesn't fit.

A 2016 Peterbilt dump truck was also purchased and outfitted for winter snow

maintenance. It was used for the first time this winter.

Replacing the equipment required an extensive evaluation to determine the best replacement and pricing options ranging from buying new, used, lease or purchase. Using State Bid Pricing and some cost sharing the cost to the City is manageable.

Another area that is overdue for an upgrade includes the lift stations for our sewer system. The new lift station replaces the 55-year old station that is behind the ball field.

Replacement of the 47-year old Valley Vista lift station construction is just beginning. The new lift station will be moved out of the front yard of a neighboring property and relocated across the street to city owned property. The Valley Vista station will be a prefabricated structure which will shorten construction time to just a few months.

Both lift station projects are being funded by a \$3 million dollar bond project and will be completed by early spring. This will avoid impacting summer events at the Fairgrounds.



If you are interested in more detail about the projects, contact Rich LaBombard at the Department of Public Works.

## It's Expo in the Springtime

You will want to be at Lowell High School on Saturday, March 25th for the 21st Annual Lowell Community Expo. From 9:00-3:00, local community organizations and businesses will have displays, giveaways, performances and specials for you!

The Expo is a community wide event organized by the Lowell Area Chamber of Commerce. While the goals are to increase exposure and awareness of businesses and organizations in the community, the Expo is a great way to learn more about your community, meet your neighbors and be more connected to your community. There are specials, sales, performances and giveaways throughout the Expo.



information and enter the drawing. See you at the Expo!



## A taxing calculation

By now, you should have received your property tax assessment by mail. This is not a bill. It provides information that is used to calculate property taxes. The taxes provide revenue for operating public entities such as schools, county services, and city government.

If you don't agree with your assessment, you can appeal. The first step is to file a petition during the "appeal window" stated on your assessment notice. The

Board of Review will be meeting March 14<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> and you may make an appointment to meet with them by calling the City offices. You may also appeal by letter as long as it is received at City Hall prior to March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Does this process sound intimidating? It's not really meant to be, but for some it is. The process is better explained in our handout "How do I effectively appeal my Property Tax Assessment?" A copy is available on the city website or by contacting city hall.

Why are we sharing this information? Because we want to be fair and reasonable. Also, those who are prepared and have supporting documentation for their request for change are more likely to get an adjustment, even if it's not as much as they wanted. So, do a little bit of homework and decide if an appeal is needed.

The City will have a booth staffed by staff and police. You can try the Drunk Goggles to experience the impact of drinking and driving.

The Lowell Police Department will also have information on Child Car Safety Seats and the best way to install them. You can even enter a drawing to win a Child Car Seat or a children's bicycle.

Look for the banner shown here. Stop by the booth to get more

### March Meetings

- March 1, 7:00 p.m. LCTV Endowment Board Meeting
- March 4, 8:00 a.m. Coffee with the Council
- March 6, 7:00 p.m. City Council
- March 7, 7:00 p.m. LCTV Endowment Board Meeting
- March 8, 6:00 p.m. Lowell Area Recreation Authority
- 7:00 p.m. Airport Board
- March 9, 12:00 p.m. Downtown Development Authority
- 6:00 p.m. Lowell Light & Power
- March 13, 12:00 p.m. Arbor Board
- 3:30 p.m. Fire Authority
- 7:00 p.m. City Planning Commission
- March 14, 6:00 p.m. Parks & Recreation Commission
- March 20, 7:00 p.m. Lowell City Council
- March 28, 6:00 p.m. Lowell Historic District Commission
- March 25, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Lowell Community Expo