

Voters' Choice Treece and Turkelson Win City Commissioner Seats

The April 7, 2003, election winners in the Lapeer City Commissioner race are Chuck Treece and Tim Turkelson. Treece took his seat with 251 votes, and Turkelson won with 244 votes. Each commissioner will serve a three-year term on the Lapeer City Commission with three other city commissioners and the mayor.

Chuck Treece

Treece, who has been a Lapeer City Commissioner since 1993, is looking forward to completion of some of Lapeer's big projects.

"I believe we have a vibrant commission and staff who are respectful of each other and will accomplish a lot in the next few years," said Treece. "I am anxious to see the downtown project completed and hope to see a meter-free Nepessing Street. I am also looking forward to other street and sidewalk improvements such as the McCormick Street resurfacing and the DeMille/M-24 intersection improvements."

Treece cited spending and relationships as important issues in his coming term.

"I also believe we should reduce lower priority and non-essential spending in the next year," he said. "Working with and improving our relationships with our township neighbors is also a good goal I look forward to."

Tim Turkelson

Turkelson eagerly anticipates his first term as a City Commissioner.

"I look forward to working with fellow commissioners," said Turkelson. "I also look forward to seeing the downtown streetscape completed. I realize the streetscape construction is tough on the downtown businesses."

Economic strength downtown is a priority for Turkelson.

"For the long term it is important to keep the downtown vital," he said. "I want to speak with the employees and businesses downtown to get input for improvements."

Turkelson's docket also includes spending issues.

"The city administration is doing a great job," he added. He would like to continue to look at spending and for ways to run the city as efficiently as possible.

Turkelson wants to get ideas from the community.

"I look forward to speaking with the city's citizens to get input," said Turkelson. "They know best, and I look forward to working with them."

A total of 395 voters cast their ballots for the election, representing 7.89 percent of the city's 5005 registered voters, according to Lapeer City Clerk Donna Cronce. Two city commissioner seats will open up next year, she said, as the terms for Bill Sprague and Mike Robinet are completed. The election date for next year is April 5, 2004.

Downtown Capital Improvement Project Ahead of Schedule

Q & A with Matt Modrack,
Executive Director of the Lapeer DDA

Neighbors: Everyone is watching the work underway downtown. What are the main components of the project, and what is the cost?



A newly paved walkway in front of the Old Courthouse is part of the downtown capital improvement project.

Modrack: The overall project, including all three phases, represents approximately \$2 million in downtown improvements. Phase One, completed last year, consisted of modifying Mason Street with a northbound lane at Nepessing so customers can access the stores on the north side of downtown more easily. Phase One also included the parking and one-way street

(continued on page 3)

City Manager's Message

Budget 2003-2004

As always, our intent is to maintain the City's strong financial condition while providing effective public services, personal and property protection, responsible development and an enhanced quality of life for all of our citizens.

On May 19, 2003, the City Commissioners adopted the annual budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 at \$22,890,711. This total includes the projects for the capital improvement program in the amount of \$4,189,261.

Budget Considerations and Constraints

Following more than a decade of economic growth, a slowing of the economy in early 2001 was followed by the devastating events of September 11, 2001. We continue to operate in difficult times. And while the economy may inch back to health, there is no indication of a quick rebound. Budget cuts and a reduction of the workforce were required to ensure a secure future for the City and our residents.

Revenue reductions include approximately \$162,000 in interest income, \$70,000 in state shared revenue and \$160,000 in income tax revenue, or *approximately \$392,000 in the last 24 months*. All of these dollars are revenues in the General Fund.

Additionally, administrative costs for materials, supplies, employee benefits and services such as Health Care continue to rise.

Despite our best efforts to reduce operational costs, minimize the effects of a challenging economy and the reductions in income tax, interest income and state shared revenues; management announced the elimination of six part-time positions and four full-time positions in April of 2003. Two more positions will not be filled



Kathy L. Roberts
City Manager

upon the retirement of those employees in June and July.

The number of police officers on the street will not be affected. Lapeer Schools have eliminated the funding for a school liaison officer (budget not yet officially

adopted); so an additional officer is available for general duty.

With these cuts and adjustments we will maintain a balance in the general fund of approximately 11 percent. This will allow us to weather an additional year or two of constrained budgets. Unlike most cities, we have continuing development. Although our development has slowed considerably, in time (perhaps 3 - 5 years) additional revenues will alleviate some, if not all, of the financial pressures we are currently experiencing.

General Fund

While there are more than 40 funding sources for City projects and operations, and more than 50 different funds listed in the City budget, the fund primarily impacted by the above revenue reductions is the General Fund. The General Fund supports:

- City Manager, Mayor, and City Commission
- City Clerk & Elections
- Accounting & Financial Services
- Police & Fire Department
- Public Works Department
- Planning, Zoning & Housing

The recommended General Fund Budget is \$6,404,099 or \$476,362 less than two years ago, and includes the workforce reduction, rising costs, and decreasing revenues. Since we continue to utilize fund balance, we will also continue to monitor revenues and expenditures and to look for additional revenue sources.

Summary

The brief comments above are only a short introduction to the 692-page

budget document. The department heads provided detailed commentary at the budget workshops May 7 and 12, 2003, and a public hearing was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2003.

Without exception, all department and division heads worked diligently to constrain spending and arrive at a proposal that is both progressive and responsible. My thanks to the administrative team, in particular to Finance Director Paul Boucher, for compiling the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004 and to the Mayor and City Commission for their careful consideration of the same.

New City Logo: Fresh Image & Approach

The Lapeer City Commission recently approved the adoption of a new Lapeer city logo for use on all aspects of city identification and communication. The new three-color logo is composed of the Lapeer name in navy blue, accented by a burgundy stylized landmark cupola, and placed against a golden moon. The logo

concept reflects the city's rich history and contemporary ideals.



"The new logo is an

effort to provide a positive image through marketing," said Joe Rozell, assistant to the city manager. "We are going to incorporate it into all aspects of the city's communications to give a fresh, new approach."

The logo will begin appearing around town this summer.

"We will phase the logo in beginning in July, and continue over the next year," said Rozell. Look for the new logo on letterhead, business cards, signage, city buildings and vehicles, city entry points, city flags, and on the Web site.

Downtown Capital Improvement Project

(continued from page 1)

between Peppers and Rite-Aid on what is actually Cedar Street, more commonly known as the location for the Optimist Beer Tent.

Phase Two of the project is now underway and consists of five blocks of angle parking on Nepessing Street, i.e., in front of Sam's Coney Island down to Cedar Street on the north side; in front of the Old Court House on the south side of Nepessing; in front of the Pix Theatre block at the east end; and in front of the block between Stallings Stained Glass and Sherwin Williams on the north side. In total we are adding 30 new parking spaces in the front of the stores, which should be a great convenience for the customers.

Other elements of Phase Two include new street lamps modeled after the style used downtown in the 1940s; new sidewalks where needed; four new landscape planters, two designed to include refurbished cupolas from Oakdale as centerpieces; many new trees placed within tree grates; and new benches and trash receptacles.

Phase Three is also known as the "Gateways" project and will consist of three landscape and signage statements placed at key intersections entering downtown. These entrance statements include plantings in raised planters with signage, all of which are anchored by the refurbished cupolas - the designs are very exciting. One of the statements will be placed at the corner of Nepessing and M-24, on an easement on the deAngeli Library property; a second statement will be placed at the "triangle" at Genesee and Saginaw Streets; and a third statement will be placed at the railroad tracks and M-24, where the downtown reader board is now. An electronic reader board is part of the M-24 statement. It will be used to announce downtown events, activities at the Pix Theatre, and individual ads for downtown merchants.

Phase Three begins in August and should be completed by the end of October 2003.

Neighbors: How is Phase Two coming along?

Modrack: So far the contractor (Zito Construction) is ahead of schedule. The original completion date was July 11, 2003, roughly 16 weeks after starting. At this time all but a small piece of curb work is complete, new sidewalk is in from Saginaw to Fox Street, and most of the street lamp bases are installed, including the wiring. The asphalt contractor is in town now paving the new angle parking areas.

Neighbors: So far what do you see that you like?

Modrack: I'm pleased with the wide walkway in front of the Old Court-

house, and I'm happy with all of the planters - they look to be in scale.

Neighbors: Any concerns?

Modrack: The angle parking on Nepessing Street is going to be great for business, but through-traffic is going to have to slow down. It will make the downtown more pedestrian-friendly, but drivers are going to be more patient and cautious.

Enter the Playhouse Raffle

Take a chance to win a custom-built miniature schoolhouse in the Playhouse Raffle sponsored by Lapeer Neighborhoods, Inc. Tickets go on sale in July at Riverview Towers and downtown during Farmer's Market. Tickets are one ticket for \$1 and six tickets for \$5. The drawing is August 17 during Lapeer Days.

City of Lapeer Directory

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New Neighbors

Check out your *Neighbors*. The newsletter has a fresh look and style to complement the new city logo. *Neighbors* reports City of Lapeer updates and happenings.

\$1,750 in Cash Prizes

Lapeer Home Fix-up Contest

With a little paint, some lumber, and a few nails the \$1,000 cash grand prize could be yours for making the most significant home improvement in the 2003 Neighborhood Improvement Contest.



Open to all owner-occupied homes in the City of Lapeer, the contest is an effort by Lapeer Neighborhoods, Inc., to encourage home exterior improvements and enhance neighborhoods in the city. Qualifying exterior home improvements include painting, landscaping, roof replacement, concrete repair, and other cosmetic enhancements.

The contest opened April 1, 2003, and continues through July 31, 2003. A grand prize of \$1,000, second prize of \$500, and third prize of \$250 are awarded at the Lapeer Days Festival on August 17, 2003.

For a contest application, contact Sara at the City's Housing Improvement Division at (810) 664-0591.

Neighbors newsletter is produced by CLW Communications, the Lapeer City Commission, and the City of Lapeer Editorial Board. Comments may be directed to the City Manager's Office at (810) 664-5231.

LAPEER CITY COMMISSION

Jim Crichton, Mayor Debbie Marquardt Mike Robinet
Bill Sprague Chuck Treece Tim Turkelson

Free Concerts Begin in June Family Fun in the Park

Enjoy open-air entertainment for the whole family at the FREE Summer Concert Series in the park beginning in June and running weekly through July (no concert July 6). The series is hosted by the City of Lapeer Parks and Recreation and sponsored by Meijer, Lapeer Regional Hospital, Smoker's Palace, Lapeer Wine & Spirits, and Rowe Inc.



The summer line-up includes a variety of musical styles and sounds.

"We wanted to give a taste of different types of music," said Christine Kuzinski, assistant director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery for the City of Lapeer. "We wanted a good balance of local and nationally recognized musicians, and we also wanted variety. We have is something for everyone."

The concerts are held on Sunday evenings, from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. in Rowden Park, located on M-24 across from the hospital.

Bring your own blankets or lawn chairs. Concessions will also be available during the concerts. For additional information contact Christine Kuzinski at (810) 664-4431.

Summer Concert Series Schedule

June 15 - Kelly Watkins

June 22 - The Steelheads

June 29 - Rich Eddy's Rockin' Oldies Band

July 13 - Genessee Valley Concert Band

July 20 - The Blue Hawaiians

July 27 - One Neo Eon

