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Harbor District - March 2016



HARBOR DISTRICT NEWS

As March comes to a close, Harbor District, Inc. is catching spring fever.

- [Help Us Clean Up the Harbor District](#)
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- [Meet the DNR Warden, Matthew Groppi](#)
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Milwaukee Riverkeeper Spring Cleanup

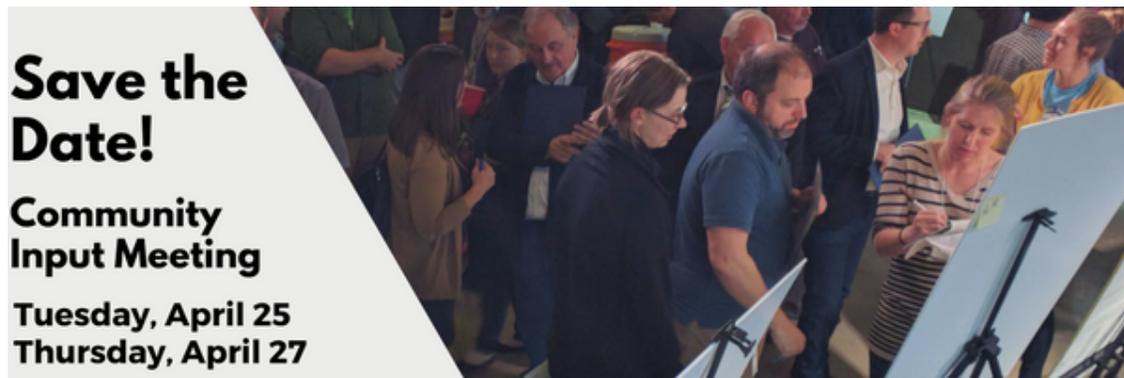
This year, Harbor District, Inc. is excited to participate in Milwaukee Riverkeeper's Spring Cleanup. In its 22nd year, this annual event aims to clean up Milwaukee's vital rivers. This is the first year that Harbor District is part of this great event and we

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are hosting two locations. Click on the links below for more information about the sites and to sign up! Help be the change for a cleaner tomorrow in the Harbor District.

- [3rd Street & Orchard Street](#)
- [Washington Street Rail Bridge & S. Water Street](#)

For more information about Milwaukee Riverkeeper and the Spring Cleanup, [click here](#).



Water and Land Use Plan Community Input Meetings

April 25, 2017 – 4:00 to 6:30 pm

April 27, 2017 – 4:00 to 6:30 pm

Locations to be announced

Harbor District, Inc. and its partners are developing a Water and Land Use Plan (WaLUP) that will serve as the vision for the future of the District. In October 2016, we held our first round of public input meetings where over 150 people shared their thoughts on the future of the Harbor District. We've been working hard since then to develop initial recommendations for you to review and comment on at the end of April.

Join us on either April 25th or April 27th between 4:00 and 6:30 pm to share your thoughts on the future of the Harbor District. Our planning consultants will be there to share their ideas for future land use, public space, environmental initiatives, and more. Don't miss this opportunity to help us shape the future of Milwaukee's waterfront. Watch for updates on our social media pages ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) and future newsletters for the location of these meetings.

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The auction for the Harbor District's largest vacant parcel closed on March 21st, with Wisconsin Energy Corp. (parent of We Energies) as the only bidder. The company anticipates taking ownership of the site sometime in May. Some might ask whether congratulations or condolences are more in order on the acquisition of a parcel that has been bogged down in a clean-up process for decades and put its last owner into bankruptcy... but Harbor District is confident that We Energies is up to the challenge. We're looking forward to seeing this amazing site become a community asset.

Click [here](#) to read more about it.



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Meet Our Milwaukee DNR Warden, Matthew Groppi

We know your first question is, what does a DNR Warden do?

In Milwaukee, DNR Wardens are in charge of patrolling Lake Michigan, the harbor, and the rivers. Their role is to enforce fishing, boating, hunting, and environmental regulations. This includes everything from checking fishing and hunting licensing, investigating boating accidents, and responding to spills, to enforcing stormwater, wastewater, wetland, and shoreline laws.

Second question, and more importantly, who is Matthew Groppi?

Matthew Groppi is a Milwaukee native who grew up fishing on the Milwaukee and Menomonee rivers as well as Lake Michigan. Matthew told HDI, "Growing up seeing the concrete-lined river channels and dams on the rivers which affect the health of the river and fish populations, made me want to improve those conditions. This led me to my career at the DNR but my passion for law enforcement led me to the warden position." He loves that he gets to make the water safer and prevent accidents. (Don't forget to wear your life jackets!) Another component of his job that he enjoys is community involvement. He believes, "It is so important for the DNR to create these rewarding partnerships to help improve our resources. Together through these partnerships, we can improve fish and wildlife populations and their habitat."

Matthew asks you that if you see anything suspicious or not right, please call 1-800-TIP-WDNR and report it.



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Baltimore's Trash Wheels featured in National Geographic

In February, as part of their People vs Climate Change, National Geographic featured the Baltimore Trash Wheels. The article highlighted Trash Wheel benefits, including changing the health and identity of the Baltimore Harbor, and noted that a trash wheel might be coming to a harbor near you. One of those harbors might be closer than you think... In the article, Milwaukee was listed as one of the cities that might be getting a trash wheel. In the Fall of 2016, Harbor District, Inc. brought designer John Kellet out to Milwaukee to look at potential sites for a Milwaukee Trash Wheel.

To read the National Geographic article, [click here](#).

If you have questions about Milwaukee's Trash Wheel, email lindsay@harbordistrict.org

Baltimore's Trash Wheels both have a large following on Twitter. You can follow and stay up to date on all the work they are doing by following these links: [Mr. Trash Wheel](#) & [Professor Trash Wheel](#)



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This past month, the Great Lakes and Harbor District, Inc. have been spotted in the news. Check out some of those articles below:

- [Harbor District Board Member Responds to Proposed Great Lakes Restoration Cuts](#)
- [The Shepard Express - Revitalising Milwaukee's Inner Harbor](#)
- [What Once Stood on the Vacant Acres in Milwaukee's Harbor?](#)



O'Lydia's General Manager, Rick Sackett, tells HDI, "*Old man Pabst knew what he was doing when he built this bar in between the 3rd Ward, the 5th Ward, and Walkers Point. Back-in-the-day he could draw from all of the neighborhoods, just like today! No spittoons on the floor anymore and women are allowed in now, but the brick and mortar still tell tales of the past. A few tweaks in the last 100 years and here you have it, O'Lydia's! Built in the late 1800's, they only served one beer, Pabst, and just a few Whiskeys. Now you can enjoy 16 different tap beers, most are micro brews from your favorite Wisconsin breweries, and any type of liquor you desire. Old man Pabst never thought of serving tasty food, but we did! Appetizers, sandwiches and great pub food are the specialties but if you need more sustenance, check out the dinner specials.*"

For more information about upcoming events and specials at O'Lydia's, visit their website [here](#).

About the Harbor District Initiative

The Harbor District Initiative brings together local, state, and federal government efforts, the private sector, and community to catalyze the redevelopment of Milwaukee's Harbor District. Our goal is to create a resilient waterfront that sets the standard for how waterfronts work – environmentally, economically and socially.

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