

Grand Marais Gazette

Volume 3
Issue 2
May, 2026

The Grand Marais Gazette is published and distributed by the Jefferson-Chalmers WATER Project

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- Candidates Forum - May 19
 - WATER Project Updates
 - GLWA, Shoreline, Flood Protection and June 13 Flotilla Event

Candidates Forum - May 19 (Invited) - Resilient Infrastructure for Jefferson-Chalmers

US House - 13th District



Matell D. Bivings



John Goci



Ralphiel King



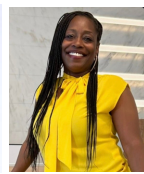
House Rep. Donovan McKinney



Dr. Mohammed Alam



John Conyers, III



LeJuan Council



LaTanya Garrett



Korey Hall



Kimberly Hill Knott

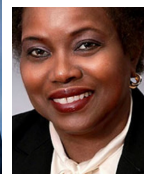
State Senate - 3rd District



T. P. Nykorizak



Rep. Shri Thanedar



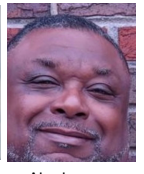
CW Mary Waters



Adam Hollier



Toinu Reeves



Abraham Shaw



Eboni Taylor



Mark Ashley Price

State House - 9th District



Wille Burton



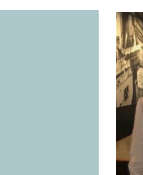
Anthony Eid



Darryl J. Ervin



Arthur Harrington



Bryant Hepp



Karriem Holman



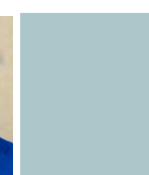
Patricia Hurt



Toni Mua



Eldridge Ross



Rick Silva

NOTE - Source: County of Wayne Clerk's Office and State of Michigan Secretary of State.

Those candidates listed and shown above were under consideration at Press Time, actual candidates may change. Some candidate photos and websites were not readily available at Publication. Space limitations were also considered.

Community Meeting

Tuesday, May. 19
6 - 8 pm

Hope Community Church
14456 East Jefferson Avenue

CANDIDATE FORUM
Shoreline, Canal Closure + GLWA Updates

Refreshments will be served.



Rep. Joe Tate



Forum Moderator

Join us on **Tuesday, May 19, 6-8 pm** at **Hope Community Church, 14456 E. Jefferson Avenue** as **The WATER Project** hosts candidates running for US House 13th District, Michigan Senate 3rd District and Michigan House 9th District.



Michele Lundgren

Former **Speaker**, current **State Rep.** and **Jefferson-Chalmers resident**, **Joe Tate** will moderate the discussion with the candidates.

While the candidates will have a **brief opportunity to share their platform**, the discussion focus will be on how elected officials can assist in securing federal and state investment necessary to underwrite **resilient infrastructure** for the community and how they will ensure residents will have a say in how the funds will be used.

Important Election Dates:

Registration Deadline - July 20 - <https://detroitvotes.org/register-to-vote/>
Democratic & Republican Primaries - Tuesday, August 6
General Election - Tuesday, November 3
Find Your Polling Place - <https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Voter/Index>

Open Canals Always Flotilla - Saturday, June 13

See Page 2

Shoreline Assessment Report Issued

Following months worth of work, the privately funded **Shoreline Assessment** will be released for review, soon.

Key findings were reported in the February **Gazette**, but the final report includes **recommendations regarding how the shoreline is the most feasible - environmentally, technically and economically.**

Harbor Island Resident, **Dan Piepszowski**, who led the effort hopes the report will be helpful to various public agencies and the community. **Jay C. Juergensen**, Vice Chair and Technical Expert noted, **“we are confident that shoreline resilience using a variety of treatments would cost \$11 million.”**

Learn more at **The WATER Project’s Community Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 6 pm** at **14456 E. Jefferson - Hope Community Church.**

See the report on the first page of **The WATER Project** website - soon!



Shoreline Program Update

At the February **WATER Project** Community Meeting, representatives from the City’s **Housing & Revitalization Dept. (HRD)**, the agency responsible for administering the **\$1 million program** designed to assist homeowners improve their shoreline, discussed the Program’s roll-out, which is underway.

A call for applicants went out to all waterfront property owners along Fox Creek and its linked canals. Applications were due at the end of March and according to **Amy Amador, Deputy Director** noted **“47 applications have been received. and HRD staff is vetting applicants and seeking to identify contractors for implementation in the coming weeks.”**

Learn more at **The WATER Project’s Community Meeting, Tuesday, May 19, 6 pm, Hope Community Church, 14456 E. Jefferson Avenue.**



Open Canals Always Flotilla Saturday, June 13 - 2-4 pm Riverfront-Lakewood East Park

The WATER Project invites you to join in celebrating our waterways and demonstrating support to **keep our canals open always!**

This event is being organized in response to the City’s appropriation of funds to investigate the possibility of **closing the canals with stoplogs and flood walls.**

Stagnant water and bogs could result from the closures along with **unprecedented economic and environmental harm** to the community.

If you are opposed to canal closure, please attend the **Open Canals Always Flotilla** to show the City how we feel about keeping our canals open always!

The event will include a flotilla of watercraft. Bring your boat, kayak, paddle board, etc. to participate in a floating parade through our beautiful waterways.

The **Open Canals Always Flotilla** is planned for **Saturday, June 13, 2026, 2-4 PM at Riverfront-Lakewood East Park.**

Details will also be posted at

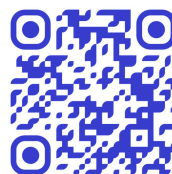
www.jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org.

Learn more at **The WATER Project’s Community Meeting Tuesday, May 19, 6 pm** at **14456 E. Jefferson - Hope Community Church.**



Register for the Open Canals Always Flotilla

Sponsor the Open Canals Always Flotilla



Sign the Change.org Petition

YOUR AD HERE

Contact:

info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org

GLWA Freud Project - Public Hearing May 7 - 10 am, CAYMC



On Thursday, May 7, 10 am, Council's Planning & Economic Development (PED) Committee will hold a Public Hearing regarding the proposed **Planned Development (PD)** rezoning for the GLWA Freud Street Pump Station. The Hearing will be on the **13th Floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.**

Jefferson-Chalmers residents met on Saturday, March 28 to discuss updates on the GLWA Freud Street Project.

The WATER Project has organized and submitted to the City Clerk a "protest petition" a from nearby property owners that could raise the City Council approval threshold from 5-9 to 7-9.

Leaders are also exploring the creation of a **Jefferson-Chalmers Community Collective (JCCC)** to help secure and manage community benefits, with outreach planned to local organizations while legal options to challenge the rezoning are also being considered.

A meeting with **Councilwoman Johnson** is being planned for the upcoming weeks to discuss next steps and community priorities. To participate in the discussion, contact info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org.

Lean more at **The WATER Project Community Meeting, Tuesday, May 19, 6-8 pm** at **Hope Community Church, 14456 E. Jefferson Avenue**

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Meet The WATER Project Leaders

Nicole Johnson



For nearly six decades, **Nicole's** family has been a part of the Jefferson-Chalmers community giving witness to the neighborhood's growth and challenges. While she enjoys traveling and has lived in other parts of the US, she recently returned to the Motor City and believes that Detroit is a great city and seeks the chance to to speak up and promote change that benefits ALL. **"This is a rewarding task and I appreciate the opportunity to serve and the support from the community members."**

Nicole continues the long tradition of community service with her leadership of the nonprofit **Loving Touch Services**, promoting/re-opening of Maheras-Genty Rec Center as well as Board Member and Treasurer for the **Jefferson-Chalmers WATER Project**. Nicole has taken leadership opposing the **GLWA Freud Project** and she also coordinates distribution of **Gazette** to the 20 plus canvassers.

Lee Marchalonis



With academic credentials from around the country that include **Wellesley College, Tennessee and Iowa**, her art making educational resume is just as impressive with New York's **Parsons/The New School and Center for Book Arts**, Detroit's College for Creative Studies and Wayne State and Lee is now a full-time instructor at the **University of Michigan Stamps School of Art & Design** in Ann Arbor.

A Detroiter since **2014**, she is a newcomer to Jefferson-Chalmers where she **runs a lithography printing studio**. Artists come to her studio to draw directly on printing stones, which Lee chemically etch/print onto paper using the press pictured here.

Lee is excited to bring her enthusiastic spirit and a love of creative collaboration to **The WATER Project** Board.



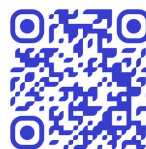
**Saturday June 13
2-4 pm
Riverfront-
Lakewood East
Park**

**Register for
the Open Canals
Always Flotilla**



**Sign the Petition
Change.org**

**Sponsor the
Open Canals
Always
Flotilla**



Important Dates

WATER Project Community Meeting

May 19, 6-8 PM
Immanuel Grace AME
490 Conner Avenue

• • •

GLWA Freud St.
Public Hearing

Thursday, May 7
10 am

13th Floor CAYMC

• • •

Open Waters Always Flotilla

Saturday, June 13
2- 4 pm

Riverfront-Lakewood
East Park

• • •

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

WATER Project
Community Meetings

August 18, 6-8 PM
Location TBD

November 17, 6-8 PM
Location TBD

• • •

Jefferson-Chalmers
Farmer's Market

www.jcfm48215.org

2nd and 4th Sunday
June to October 12

735 Emerson
(across from Dickerson Manor)

DBA Considers Flood Protection Alternatives

The WATER Project continues to monitor the progress of the proposed Flood Protection activities of the **Detroit Building Authority (DBA)** including their contract to determine the feasibility and to construct stop logs. The **WATER Project's Flood Protection Committee** has identified key concerns about the proposed work.

The WATER Project is working with **CW Johnson** who supports the community's intention of uninterrupted water access.

June 13's **Open Canals Always Flotilla** is intended to increase awareness of the threat to our canals and community. See [page 2](#).

Learn more at **Hope Community Church, 14456 E Jefferson Ave.** hosts **The WATER Project's Community Meeting** on **Tuesday, May 19 - 6 pm.**

Consider joining the virtual **Flood Protection Committee, May 1, 12 pm** - to participate please contact info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org



The WATER Project Leaders

continued



Maria Stapiulonis

Jefferson-Chalmers WATER Project Board Member **Maria Stapiulonis** is the Board Secretary while she also Chairs the Event Committee, a group currently organizing the **Open Canals Always Flotilla**, scheduled for **Saturday, June 13**. See the related article on [page 2](#).

Maria is staunch advocate for the community and committed to preserving the unique amenities for all, a perspective that comes easy for her given her law degree from **University of Detroit/Mercy** and background as a lawyer specializing in criminal defense and family law.

While her husband, **Peter**, is a 20-year resident, she joined him five years ago as their adult children often make appearances in the neighborhood.

Maria and Peter particularly enjoy the **natural beauty of living on the canals**. They like to **boat, kayak and paddle board** on the water - and even **walking on the frozen canals in the winter is a pastime**.

Thanks to this Issue's Contributors: Maria Stapulionis, Graham Jones, Blake Granuum, Traci Rubin, Jay C. Juergensen, Toinu Reeves, Amy Amador, and Daniel Piepszowski.

The **Jefferson-Chalmers WATER Project** is working to find resilient and sustainable solutions to water resource and climate challenges in our community as we seek to create a vibrant place where people live, work, play, recreate and find refuge. **The WATER Project** is **501c3**, charitable organization

Jefferson-Chalmers WATER Project
Water Access, Technology, Education and Recreation

Keep Sewage out of Basements & Canals • Keep Stormwater out of the System • Keep Great Lakes out of the Neighborhood

To Advertise with or Contribute to the *Grand Marais Gazette* contact: info@jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org

Learn more at: www.jeffersonchalmerswaterproject.org

Maria is staunch advocate for the community and committed