

**Thacher, Jill**

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**From:** Heidi Trudell <heidi@bigbendnature.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 8:50 AM  
**To:** HDC  
**Subject:** 415 W Washington Chimney Preservation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Greetings,

On behalf of myself, Washtenaw Audubon, Washtenaw Safe Passage, and the associated conservation committees: it is absolutely critical for the Chimney Swift populations that migrate from Canada into Central and South America that their roost site at 415 W Washington be preserved.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act dictates that migratory bird species, their feathers, bodies, bones, nests, and roosts are federally protected. This is all the more critical when populations of insect eating birds are in steep decline. Chimney Swifts are voracious insectivores and with the decline in insect populations and suitable chimney nesting sites, it's imperative that Ann Arbor set a good precedent and preserve what they are able to, lest the city become uninhabitable for our tiny aerial friends.

Thank you for your time,  
-Heidi Trudell

Washtenaw Safe Passage Regional Coordinator  
Detroit Safe Passage Committee Chair  
Black Swamp Bird Observatory Conservation Committee

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Heidi Trudell

JustSaveBirds.com  
[Washtenaw Safe Passage](#)  
Safe Passage Great Lakes ([Detroit Audubon](#))

Specimen tag info:  
DATE/TIME  
LOCATION  
CAUSE OF DEATH (if known)  
FINDER/COLLECTOR'S NAME & CONTACT INFO

**Thacher, Jill**

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**From:** Terry Ryan Kane <terryrkane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 10:16 AM  
**To:** HDC  
**Subject:** Swifts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

As a resident of Ward 5, a conservationist, a veterinarian, and a concerned Ann Arbor citizen I am urging you to help save the chimney roost during the demolition of the building across from the YMCA. Not only do these threatened birds consume millions of mosquitos, wasps, hornets and such, they are important to the avian/insect ecosystem. This is an important roost for this remarkable species and I urge you to control the demolition such that their home is preserved.

Thank you,  
Dr. Terry Ryan Kane  
604 Wilton Ct.

**Thacher, Jill**

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**From:** Margaret Jewett <jewett4543@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 12:29 PM  
**To:** HDC  
**Subject:** Chimney at 415 W Washington St.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

I understand your Thursday agenda includes a Notice to Proceed with demolition of all structures on the 415 W Washington structures. I support saving the chimney at 415 W. Washington for the chimney swifts. There has been a precipitous decline in the population as roosting habitat has been destroyed over time and migration routes have, by necessity, been altered. Saving one old chimney may seem like a small action, but it is a very important action for these 1400 twittering tinkerbells. Were they able to roost on horizontal surfaces like most other birds, taking down a chimney would not have such significance, but in the case of swifts, it is a matter of survival. Perhaps an aging chimney can be incorporated into whatever new structure entrepreneurs are hoping to erect.

I feel very sad as I write this, having watched species after species dwindle and sometimes disappear in the last fifty years. I want to encourage this city to put the preservation of native flora and fauna in the forefront of criteria for acceptable development proposals.

Sincerely,  
*Margaret S Jewett*  
**Margaret Jewett**  
[jewett4543@gmail.com](mailto:jewett4543@gmail.com)

**Thacher, Jill**

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**From:** prewald prewald <prewald@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 1:58 PM  
**To:** HDC  
**Subject:** Copy of my letter of 9/16 to the City Council

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear HDC: I understand you will be addressing this issue on Thursday. I attach the following indicating my belief that the Chimney Swift habitat deserves extraordinary protection.

-----Original Message-----

From: prewald prewald <prewald@gmail.com>  
To: CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>  
Cc: cathythetvet <cathythetvet@comcast.net>  
Sent: Sun, Sep 16, 2018 3:43 pm  
Subject: Retaining historical designation for 415 W. Washington chimney

Dear City Council.

Please retain and support the unique chimney at 415 W. Washington. Do not change its current historical designation and/or allow its destruction in any future demolition or restructuring.

I am not a birder, nor an avid conservationist. But I do appreciate that the high Chimney Swift count as indicated by the mlive story [https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html) is proof of another jewel in Ann Arbor's crown as an exceptional city to live and work in as well as a travel destination. I believe this is exactly your mission - preserve and grow this city. It is all too easy for government to destroy these days, as opposed to nurturing and developing in harmony.

Please protect the chimney.

Thank you,  
Paula Rewald  
[2556 Traver Blvd](#)  
[Ann Arbor, MI 48105](#)

**Thacher, Jill**

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**From:** k zasa <kzasa@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 4:39 PM  
**To:** HDC  
**Subject:** Fw: URGENT ACTION: Chimney Swifts!  
**Attachments:** Chimney Swift Fact Sheet.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Housing Division Committee,

I support saving the chimney at 415 W. Washington for the swifts.

Please see the MLive article: [https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)



Group wants to save Ann Arbor chimney to protect 'near threatened' birds

[www.mlive.com](http://www.mlive.com)

A nearly century-old chimney at 415 W. Washington is a favorite migration roosting spot for the chimney swift, a bird species that's been declining in numbers.

Thank you,

Kim Zasa  
211 Bucholz Court  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
734-272-6031

## Thacher, Jill

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**From:** Scott Huizenga <scotthuiz@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 18, 2018 9:42 PM  
**To:** CityCouncil  
**Cc:** HDC  
**Subject:** 415 W. Washington / Keep the Chimney for the Swifts

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I support the effort to keep the Chimney intact at the 415 W Washington site. This is an important roosting site for hundreds, sometimes thousands of these amazing birds, and great location near the center of town making observing these birds accessible to residents and visitors to our city. I've personally witnessed the awe and delight of passers by who look up in the evening as hundreds of these birds funnel into the chimney in a matter of minutes. Truly an amazing sight.

No Chimney.  
No Swifts.  
No delight.  
Don't let that happen.

Scott Huizenga  
Resident 5<sup>th</sup> Ward  
Ann Arbor

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**Thacher, Jill**

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**From:** Kathleen A Brennan <kbcats99@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 12:25 PM  
**To:** HDC  
**Subject:** Chimney

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Please do preserve the chimney - the swifts are an important part of our ecosystem and educational. Thank you.

Kathleen Brennan

**Thacher, Jill**

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**From:** Mike Sefton <mseft@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 1:32 PM  
**To:** HDC; CityCouncil  
**Subject:** Please preserve the chimney at 415 Washington

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Members of the Historic District Commission, Mayor, and Council,

I'm a resident of Ann Arbor and I support efforts to preserve the chimney at 415 Washington used by Chimney Swifts as a roost. The birds are beneficial in controlling insects and provide an excellent educational opportunity, as well as one of nature's more interesting spectacles. Replacing this chimney with an artificial structure is unlikely to work, based on the track record of such structures. Though there are other chimneys in the area occasionally used by swifts, none have the capacity or history of use by this near threatened species. Please preserve this chimney.

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Thanks,  
Mike Sefton  
2491 Towner Blvd.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104



**From:** Johannes <jpst51@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:06 PM  
**To:** HDC <HDC@a2gov.org>; CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>  
**Subject:** Please preserve the chimney at 415 Washington

Members of the Historic District Commission, Mayor, and Council,

I'm a resident of Ann Arbor and I support efforts to preserve the chimney at 415 Washington used by Chimney Swifts as a roost

The birds are beneficial in controlling insects and provide an excellent educational opportunity, as well as one of nature's more interesting spectacles. Replacing this chimney with an artificial structure is unlikely to work, based on the track record of such structures. Though there are other chimneys in the area occasionally used by swifts, none have the capacity or history of use by this near threatened species. Please preserve this chimney.

*Please see this link*

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Thanks,  
Johannes Postma  
2710 Kimberley Rd  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**From:** Ian MacGregor <[macwellman1@gmail.com](mailto:macwellman1@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:06 PM

**To:** HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>

**Subject:** Preserve the chimney

Members of the Historic District Commission, Mayor, and Council,

I'm a resident of Ann Arbor and I support efforts to preserve the chimney at 415 Washington used by Chimney Swifts as a roost.

The birds are beneficial in controlling insects and provide an excellent educational opportunity, as well as one of nature's more interesting spectacles. Replacing this chimney with an artificial structure is unlikely to work, based on the track record of such structures. Though there are other chimneys in the area occasionally used by swifts, none have the capacity or history of use by this near threatened species. Please preserve this chimney.

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Thanks,

Vickie Wellman

2461 Towner blvd

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**From:** Ian Macgregor <[macwellman@icloud.com](mailto:macwellman@icloud.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:09 PM  
**To:** HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>; CityCouncil <[CityCouncil@a2gov.org](mailto:CityCouncil@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** Preserve chimney

Members of the Historic District Commission, Mayor, and Council,

I'm a resident of Ann Arbor and I support efforts to preserve the chimney at 415 Washington used by Chimney Swifts as a roost.

The birds are beneficial in controlling insects and provide an excellent educational opportunity, as well as one of nature's more interesting spectacles. Replacing this chimney with an artificial structure is unlikely to work, based on the track record of such structures. Though there are other chimneys in the area occasionally used by swifts, none have the capacity or history of use by this near threatened species. Please preserve this chimney.

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Thanks,  
Ian MacGregor  
2461 Towner blvd  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

**From:** Nicole Sefton <[seftonn1344@yahoo.com](mailto:seftonn1344@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:18 PM  
**To:** HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>; CityCouncil <[CityCouncil@a2gov.org](mailto:CityCouncil@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** Please preserve the chimney at 415 Washington

Dear Historic District Commission, Mayor, City Council,

I am a resident of Ann Arbor and I support efforts to preserve the chimney at 425 Washington used by Chimney Swifts as a roost.

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Nicole Sefton  
2491 Towner Blvd  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
48104  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Nadine <[ndeipert@aol.com](mailto:ndeipert@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 8:03 PM

**To:** HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>

**Subject:** Chimney on Washington St

Please, please, please save the chimney on Washington in AA. We absolutely need that to remain as a perfect habitat for the near-endangered chimney swift. There were 1400 Swifts overnighing in Aug. of this year. Ann Arbor could take pride in saving the chimney. Each bird devours thousands of mosquitos, reducing the threat of West Nile Virus. It also seems that it would be much less expensive to keep the chimney, rather than demolish it. It is so very important to help this species survive.

Thank you,

Nadine Deipert

4642 Mulberry Wood Cir

Ann Arbor, Mi

48105

From: bernie hobrecht <[studiob@provide.net](mailto:studiob@provide.net)>  
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 8:38 PM  
To: HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>  
Subject: Please preserve the chimney at 415 Washington

Members of the Historic District Commission,

I'm a resident of Ann Arbor and I support efforts to preserve the chimney at 415 Washington used by Chimney Swifts as a roost.

The birds are beneficial in controlling insects and provide an excellent educational opportunity, as well as one of nature's more interesting spectacles. Replacing this chimney with an artificial structure is unlikely to work, based on the track record of such structures. Though there are other chimneys in the area occasionally used by swifts, none have the capacity or history of use by this near threatened species.

Please preserve this chimney.

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Thank you!  
Bernie Hobrecht  
2717 Cranbrook rd  
Ann Arbor, Mi.  
48104

**From:** Jeannine Palms <jeannine@wetmeadow.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 9:45 PM  
**To:** HDC <HDC@a2gov.org>; CityCouncil <CityCouncil@a2gov.org>  
**Subject:** Please preserve the chimney at 415 Washington

Members of the Historic District Commission, Mayor, and Ann Arbor City Council members,

I just heard about the use of this chimney by numerous birds. I support efforts to preserve the chimney at 415 Washington used by Chimney Swifts as a roost. The birds are beneficial in controlling insects and provide an excellent educational opportunity, as well as one of nature's more interesting spectacles. Replacing this chimney with an artificial structure is unlikely to work based on the track record of such structures. Though there are other chimneys in the area occasionally used by swifts, none have the capacity or history of use by this near threatened species. Please preserve this chimney.

For additional information about the use of this chimney, see:

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)

Thank you for your attention,

Jeannine

*Jeannine Palms  
2656 Easy St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
734-971-5870*

**From:** Elizabeth Bishop <[bbishop@umich.edu](mailto:bbishop@umich.edu)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 10:34 PM  
**To:** HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: 425 W. Washington

Sorry - this should have referenced 415 W. Washington and not 425 W. Washington. Elizabeth S. Bishop

On Wed, Sep 19, 2018 at 10:31 PM, Elizabeth Bishop <[bbishop@umich.edu](mailto:bbishop@umich.edu)> wrote:

As a long-time resident of Ann Arbor and active birder for many years, I strongly urge you not to demolish the chimney at 425 W. Washington which is a roosting site for over 1000 chimney swifts. Chimney swifts are a threatened species and need these chimneys for roosting as they eat mosquitoes and other insects in preparation for long migration flights to their southern winter areas.

Thanks for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth S. Bishop  
1612 Morton Ave.,  
Ann Arbor MI 48104  
734-662-9492



**From:** [parula100@aol.com](mailto:parula100@aol.com) <[parula100@aol.com](mailto:parula100@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 11:13 PM

**To:** HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>

**Subject:** Demolition of buildings on Washington

To the Historic District Commission:

I am writing to ask you to consider not demolishing the historic building at 425 Washington. This building's chimney is an important roosting site for over 1000 Chimney Swifts. I hope you can find some way to preserve this building and its feathered residents.

Darlene Friedman

**From:** Bouma, Sandra <[sbouma@med.umich.edu](mailto:sbouma@med.umich.edu)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 11:17 PM

**To:** Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <[CTaylor@a2gov.org](mailto:CTaylor@a2gov.org)>; Westphal, Kirk <[KWestphal@a2gov.org](mailto:KWestphal@a2gov.org)>; HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>; [griswoldki@gmail.com](mailto:griswoldki@gmail.com)

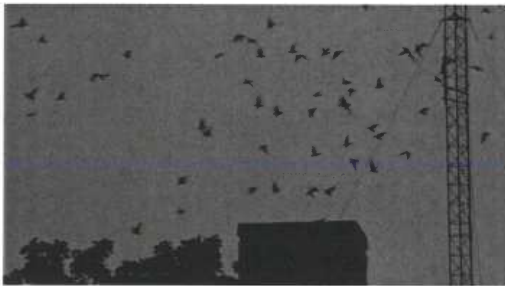
**Subject:** Chimney Swift tower

Dear Mayor Taylor, Councilman Westphal, future Councilwoman Griswold and Historic District representative,

As a citizen of Ann Arbor and a member of the Washtenaw Audubon Society, I am writing to say that I support saving the chimney at 415 W. Washington for the chimney swifts. It sounds as though future plans for the property where the buildings may be demolished could incorporate a free standing chimney tower. Swifts are particular and apparently this chimney is one of their favorite ones. I have participated in the annual Ann Arbor swift counts in the past and recently 1400 swifts were counted as they flew into the 415 W. Washington chimney.

Here is a link which you may have seen on MLive which explains why swifts are so valuable to our community. Ann Arbor could be proud to be a shining example of conservation by saving and refurbishing, if necessary, this particular chimney.

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html)



Group wants to save Ann Arbor chimney to protect 'near threatened' birds | MLive.com

[www.mlive.com](http://www.mlive.com)

A nearly century-old chimney at 415 W. Washington is a favorite migration roosting spot for the chimney swift, a bird species that's been declining in numbers.

Thank you for representing me and taking my concerns seriously.

Sandra

**Sandra Bouma, MS, RDN, CSP**  
**Registered Dietitian Nutritionist**

**C.S. Mott Children's Hospital**  
**Michigan Medicine**

**Home address:**  
**2210 Georgetown Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105**

**Home phone:**  
**734-709-2408 (leave a voice mail if I am unable to answer and I will return your call.)**

**From:** Rolf Bouma <[rbouma@umich.edu](mailto:rbouma@umich.edu)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 7:49 AM

**To:** Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <[CTaylor@a2gov.org](mailto:CTaylor@a2gov.org)>; Westphal, Kirk <[KWestphal@a2gov.org](mailto:KWestphal@a2gov.org)>; HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>; [griswoldkj@gmail.com](mailto:griswoldkj@gmail.com)

**Subject:** Chimney Swift Tower

Dear Mayor Taylor, Councilman Westphal, future Councilwoman Griswold and Historic District representative,

As a citizen of Ann Arbor, I am writing to support saving the chimney at 415 W. Washington for the chimney swifts. It sounds as though future plans for the property where the buildings may be demolished could incorporate a free standing chimney tower. Swifts are particular and apparently this chimney is one of their favorite ones.

Ann Arbor could be proud to be a shining example of conservation by saving and refurbishing, if necessary, this particular chimney. Thank you for representing me and taking my concerns seriously.

Rolf Bouma

***Rolf Bouma, J.D., M.Div., Ph.D.  
Program in the Environment  
4044 Dana Bldg.  
University of Michigan***

***Home address:  
2210 Georgetown Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105***

***Home phone:  
734-709-2406***

From: Susan Kielb <[sdkielb@comcast.net](mailto:sdkielb@comcast.net)>  
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 11:56 AM  
To: HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>; Smith, Chip <[ChSmith@a2gov.org](mailto:ChSmith@a2gov.org)>; Warpehoski, Chuck <[CWarpehoski@a2gov.org](mailto:CWarpehoski@a2gov.org)>; [aliforcouncil@voteali.org](mailto:aliforcouncil@voteali.org); Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <[CTaylor@a2gov.org](mailto:CTaylor@a2gov.org)>  
Subject: 425 West Washington chimney

Hello,

I am writing in support of finding some way to preserve the chimney at 425 W. Washington when demolition work proceeds. On summer nights, and even more so now, we see large numbers of Chimney Swifts fly over our house from the drinking water treatment pond toward W. Washington as these birds move to roost for the night after feeding on insects over the pond. It is exciting to think that the population of swifts is finding what they need to flourish right here in town.

It makes sense to manage for the survival success of this near-threatened species here in the city where they can help us control the mosquito population. If this spot is to be developed as parkland in the future the chimney could even be a focus feature of that park. The spectacle of hundreds of these birds swirling over a chimney as they dive in to find a spot to cling to for the night is something to behold.

Thank you for considering this proposal, Susan Kielb  
1731 Hatcher Crescent,  
Ann Arbor  
734-660-5320



# SIERRA CLUB

Huron Valley Group

To: Members of the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission  
Jill Thacher, Historic Preservation Coordinator  
From: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group  
Subject: Request to modify the Notice to Proceed with demolition of structures located on city property located at 415 W. Washington St.

I write to represent the collective support of members of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group to join in with the concerns raised by the Washtenaw Audubon Society regarding the long-standing roosting site provided by the large industrial chimney that stands in the city-owned property located at 415 W. Washington Street. You have received information from the Washtenaw Audubon Society. The attached fact sheet indicates that chimney swifts are near-threatened and diminishing in numbers across the United States. The chimney structure under discussion provides a roosting site for the birds, and protection for them as they make their long migration flights.

We acknowledge the city's concern with the cost to rehabilitate and maintain most of the structures at 415 W. Washington that generated the impetus to request a Notice to Proceed with demolition. The chimney is a separate and solid structure. We recommend that it receive special, specific, and ongoing historic district protection regardless of ownership, in order to continue to function as a unique urban wildlife support structure. That is, we ask you to exempt the chimney from the request for a Notice to Proceed with demolition of structures located at 415 W. Washington St.

Retaining the chimney would:

- Provide a remnant of the 1907 building, that can be a landmark and memorial to the industrial past of the location,
- Likely would require limited maintenance, depending on the outcome of an assessment of the chimney structure,
- Contribute a classic structural element to the proposed Treeline greenway and the immediate neighborhood,
- Attract tourists, birders, students of all ages, researchers, neighbors and other residents and visitors to Ann Arbor and the immediate area interested in viewing the spectacle of chimney swift movement during the roosting phase, with attendant benefits for local businesses,
- Provide an educational element for students, researchers neighbors, and visitors, regarding the life cycle of the chimney swift, bird migration, benefits of the birds' insect diet that benefits humans, and appreciation of the opportunity to observe wildlife in an urban setting.

In addition, retaining historic protection for the chimney is consistent with the purpose of the Historic District Commission, per Ann Arbor City Code Chapter 103 Historic Preservation Section 8.406, which states that the purpose of this chapter is to:

- 1) Safeguard the heritage of the city by preserving historic districts which reflect elements of the city's history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture;
- 2) Stabilize and improve property values in the districts and the surrounding areas;
- 3) Foster civic beauty;
- 4) Strengthen the local economy; and
- 5) Promote the use of historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens of the city and of the State of Michigan.

Acting to retain the chimney at 415 W. Washington supports each of the above statements of purpose for Historic Preservation. We will be happy to discuss each of the statements with respect to our request.

Members of the Sierra Club Huron Valley Group, in conjunction with the Washtenaw Audubon Society request that the Historic District Commission and the City of Ann Arbor act to specifically designate the brick and mortar chimney present at 415 W. Washington Street as a historic protected structure to be retained for the purpose of its value to support the life cycle of a threatened bird species. We further request that the chimney be evaluated as to the integrity of its structure, and that the historic protection requested be applicable regardless of ownership of the property of 415 W. Washington St.

We ask the members of the Historic District Commission to join us in appreciation of the opportunity to live in harmony with the wildlife that pass through our urban landscape and to support the ongoing life cycle of the chimney swifts that use the chimney at 415 W. Washington. We look forward to working with you to identify next steps to support the protection of the chimney as a benefit to the humans and wildlife that populate our community.

To provide a sample of the activity of the chimney swifts, please view this short video from September 11, 2018:

- <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1xGx3QxxdJIQAF7AEumWqDtRQzHMvDgTG>

Sincerely,

Nancy Shiffler  
Chair, Sierra Club Huron Valley Group

Attachment: Chimney Swift Fact Sheet

Members of the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission  
John Beeson, Chair  
Max Cope, Vice-Chair  
Anna Epperson  
Evan Hall, Secretary  
Jessica Quijano  
David Rochlen  
Robert White



## Chimney Swift Fact Sheet

### **Chimney Swifts are in trouble!**

- Chimney Swifts are adapted for life on a roughened vertical surface—they are physically unable to perch like an average songbird on a horizontal surface.
- Historically, they roosted in big hollow trees, but when the big trees were cut down in the early 1900's, Chimney Swifts turned to chimneys as a substitute for trees.
- Now, as old chimneys are torn down, capped, or lined with metal, the swifts find fewer and fewer places to roost and raise their young.
- A changing climate disrupts migration routes and the birds' ability to find food, as does widespread pesticide use.
- Nationally, Chimney Swift numbers have fallen 72% in the last 50 years. They continue to decline at a rate of 2.5% of population annually.
- Chimney swifts are classified as Near Threatened in the United States, and an Endangered Species in Canada.

### **We need our Chimney Swifts!**

- Chimney Swifts eat up to 1/3 of their body weight daily in insects.
- They carry no known transmissible diseases.
- When the swifts arrive in Ann Arbor in April from South America, breeding pairs find chimneys to raise their young (one nesting pair per chimney). See [chimneyswifts.org](http://chimneyswifts.org) for information on how to best prepare your home chimney for a nesting pair.
- It is illegal to harass, remove, or in any way disturb a nesting pair of Chimney Swifts under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- In late summer and fall, the swifts gather in large roost chimneys in preparation for migration back to South America. The natural spectacle of hundreds of Chimney Swifts spiraling into a chimney is enjoyed every year by many Ann Arborites.
- The large chimney at 415 W. Washington is heavily used by Ann Arbor's swifts. 1,400 Chimney Swifts were recently counted there (the highest population of swifts anywhere in the city)!

**From:** Christine Brummer <[brummerceb@gmail.com](mailto:brummerceb@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 9:52 AM

**To:** Thacher, Jill <[JThacher@a2gov.org](mailto:JThacher@a2gov.org)>; Smith, Chip <[ChSmith@a2gov.org](mailto:ChSmith@a2gov.org)>; Warpehoski, Chuck <[CWarpehoski@a2gov.org](mailto:CWarpehoski@a2gov.org)>; [TomStulberg@hotmail.com](mailto:TomStulberg@hotmail.com); [owsboard@umich.edu](mailto:owsboard@umich.edu); Detter, Ray <[rдетter@umich.edu](mailto:rдетter@umich.edu)>

**Subject:** 415 W Washington site

The former City Yard site in the Old West Side has been a challenge to address. The existing structure has definite, enduring issues. We are aware of the many needs evidenced in the immediate area as well as visions for buildable space. On-going focus has been for parking and traffic control; a particular concern is for pedestrian and bicycler safety on Washington. Greenway/Treetops Trail proposals, flood way regulations and pleas to preserve chimney swifts roosts also factor us toward recommending a thoughtful resolution for a resource degrading as it exists.

Over the years, City Council has often sought to make the site more of a public resource to no avail. Three development plans joined the items listed above as possible uses after the property no longer served as a City Yard. Topography, contamination, size, easements and similar limitations defeated these earlier attempts to renovate. Efforts were trumped by the fact that the main building is essentially decaying from within. It may be time to look at what can be done instead (as was successfully carried out in sacrificing the tannery portion of what became Liberty Lofts).

The 415 W Washington property deserves attention before it becomes worse. The petition before the Historic District Commission may be the opportunity for fruitful discussion of the future of the building and of the site. We definitely want to husband our resources.

Christine E. Brummer  
313-610-2387



From: Rita <ritamitchell@gmail.com>  
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 11:57 AM  
To: Thacher, Jill <JThacher@a2gov.org>; HDC <HDC@a2gov.org>  
Cc: Taylor, Christopher (Mayor) <CTaylor@a2gov.org>; Kailasapathy, Sumi <SKailasapathy@a2gov.org>; Warpehoski, Chuck <CWarpehoski@a2gov.org>; Lumm, Jane <JLumm@a2gov.org>; Eaton, Jack <JEaton@a2gov.org>; Westphal, Kirk <KWestphal@a2gov.org>; Grand, Julie <JGrand@a2gov.org>; Krapohl, Graydon <GKrapohl@a2gov.org>; Ackerman, Zach <ZAckerman@a2gov.org>; Smith, Chip <ChSmith@a2gov.org>; Bannister Anne <annebannister@pfes.org>; Lumm Jane <janelumm@comcast.net>  
Subject: Notice to Proceed: 415 W. Washington

Dear Ms. Thacher and Historic District Commission Members:

RE: Historic Structures at 415 W. Washington St.

I am writing to request that you delay action regarding the Notice to Proceed with demolition of the historic structures at 415 W. Washington St., for the purpose of addressing the status of the site's industrial chimney that provides a roosting site for nesting and migrating chimney swifts.

The chimney swifts are a near-threatened species, whose numbers are dwindling. The ongoing removal of chimneys that were built in the 19th and 20th centuries, that have provided shelter for these beneficial birds, contributes to a significant loss of these beneficial birds. They eat insects such as mosquitoes, termites, etc., that are considered pests to humans and structures. Their use of the chimney at 415 W. Washington is a benefit to us from their insect predation, as well as from the opportunity to live in harmony with a wildlife species in our urban environment.

The Treeline will soon be established in the city-owned area of 415 W. Washington, and the existence of the chimney and its chimney swifts can provide a unique focal point, a destination, a learning opportunity that will enhance the Treeline.

I understand that the buildings located in the Old West Side Historic District are covered by the protection of their historic status, and that your consideration of the Notice to Proceed is related to the cost to rehabilitate and maintain the buildings. Please consider that the chimney has not been studied adequately. It has value as the urban habitat for the chimney swifts. I suggest that your considerations include the value of retaining historic protection of the chimney, specifically, in perpetuity, to serve as a physical marker of the historic activity and structures, as well as to serve as a shelter for chimney swifts that are facing ongoing threats to their existence.

Please postpone your decision on the Notice to Proceed, and review more information on the chimney and its purpose in the City of Ann Arbor.

Sincerely,

Rita Mitchell  
621 Fifth St.  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**From:** Vince Caruso <[vrcaruso@comcast.net](mailto:vrcaruso@comcast.net)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 20, 2018 12:26 PM  
**To:** HDC <[HDC@a2gov.org](mailto:HDC@a2gov.org)>; Thacher, Jill <[JThacher@a2gov.org](mailto:JThacher@a2gov.org)>  
**Cc:** Rita L. Mitchell <[ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Notice to Proceed: 415 W. Washington

Thanks, Rita for sending this out.

I agree with Rita's forwarded email request below and reasons.

MLive has a [newer article](#) up on 415 W. Wash. Swift and Chimney preservation:

[https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group\\_wants\\_to\\_save\\_ann\\_arbor.html#incart\\_river\\_index](https://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2018/09/group_wants_to_save_ann_arbor.html#incart_river_index)

MLive includes a [YouTube video](#) of the swifts.

Thanks,  
Vince

Vince Caruso

556 Glendale Cr.

Coordinating Member - [ACWG.ORG: Allen's Creek Watershed Group](#)

Board Member - [SCHVG: Sierra Club Huron Valley Group](#)

Board Member - [CARD: Coalition for Action on Remediation of Dioxane](#)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Rita <[ritalmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:ritalmitchell@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Notice to Proceed: 415 W. Washington  
**Date:** September 20, 2018 at 11:57:02 AM EDT  
**To:** Thacher Jill <[jthacher@a2gov.org](mailto:jthacher@a2gov.org)>, [hdc@a2gov.org](mailto:hdc@a2gov.org)  
**Cc:** Taylor Christopher <[CTaylor@a2gov.org](mailto:CTaylor@a2gov.org)>, Kailasapathy Sumi <[SKailasapathy@a2gov.org](mailto:SKailasapathy@a2gov.org)>, Warpehoski Chuck <[CWarpehoski@a2gov.org](mailto:CWarpehoski@a2gov.org)>, Lumm J

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<ChSmith@a2gov.org>, Bannister Anne <annebannister@pfes.org>, Lumm Jane  
<janelumm@comcast.net>

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