



January 29, 2016

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Next meeting: Council Strategic Planning Workshop, February 5, 2016,
8:30 am at the Southwest Michigan Business Center

The following report has been prepared to provide you with an update on current issues or projects in progress:

Snow Building Progress:

Advanced Dermatology – Dr. Kuriata’s Dowagiac suite is ready. They are preparing their schedule for the move.



The Law offices of May, Oberfell and Lorber – Progress has stayed right on schedule and it will not be long before they will be scheduling their move in day. Construction, heat, air, data, electric, plumbing, and doors are complete. Next will be baseboards, trim, and carpet.



Van Buren/Cass County Environmental Services and Community Center- All walls are up and plumbing and electrical work is going on this week.



Each of our new neighbors are looking forward to their new locations and being a part of the community.

Michigan Eats at the Dowagiac Area History Museum



The Dowagiac Area History Museum opens its first temporary exhibit, *Michigan Eats: Regional Culture through Food*, on Thursday, February 4 with an open house from 5-7 p.m. featuring Michigan food as refreshments. The exhibit from the Michigan State University Museum examines ethnic and regional foods throughout the state through exhibit panels and artifacts. Museum Director Steve Arseneau is supplementing the exhibit with local food history, including photographs and artifacts documenting the local agriculture industry and some of Dowagiac's restaurants. *Michigan Eats* will be at the museum through April 30.

Citizen Question at Council Meeting:

At the last city Council meeting Mr. Mortimore expressed concern about a high utility bill that he recently received and paid. A review of his account showed a very large usage occurred when the meter was read on December 1. On December 2 customer service staff called Mr. Mortimore and left a message that the reading was high and that he should check for leaks and/or running water.

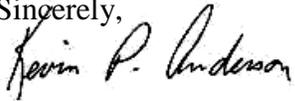
The next meter reading was normal. He may be eligible for a credit so a request for credit form was sent to him this week.

Lawsuit regarding SB 271

This week Mayor Lyons became a named party in a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law restricting how and when a local government can share factual information about ballot questions with the public. A hearing has been scheduled for this matter on February 3, 2016.

This lawsuit has garnered a significant amount of media interest and attached you will find links to numerous articles on this topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin P. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'K'.

Kevin P. Anderson
City Manager

WOOD TV press conference <http://woodtv.com/2016/01/05/protestors-rally-against-ballot-mishaps-bill/>

WOOD TV 8 Lawsuit <http://woodtv.com/2016/01/26/local-officials-sue-to-block-law-prohibiting-ballot-info/>

Roseville, Algonac, Dowagiac Officials Are Among Plaintiffs in Federal Lawsuit Against 'Gag Order' Law
<http://blogs.mml.org/wp/inside208/2016/01/26/roseville-algonac-dowagiac-officials-are-among-plaintiffs-in-federal-lawsuit-against-gag-order-law/>

Herald Palladium Dowagiac joins suit against 'gag' law
http://www.heraldpalladium.com/news/local/dowagiac-joins-suit-against-gag-law/article_30a71592-bd38-55ad-b669-ee7fdb8f400b.html

Michigan Association of School Boards <http://masb.org/senate-bill-571-signed-by-governor.aspx>

Washington times
<http://m.washingtontimes.com/news/2016/jan/26/local-officials-sue-to-block-law-prohibiting-ballo/>

Librarians Nationwide Protest Michigan Bill SB 571 would prohibit librarians from giving ballot proposal information
<http://americanlibrariesmagazine.org/blogs/the-scoop/librarians-nationwide-protest-michigan-bill-sb-571/>

Waterford school officials hope for quick resolution of 'gag order' lawsuit <http://www.theoaklandpress.com/social-affairs/20160127/waterford-school-officials-hope-for-quick-resolution-of-gag-order-lawsuit>

Leader - Dowagiac impacted
<http://www.leaderpub.com/2016/01/14/city-impacted-by-recent-ballot-legislation/>

Channel 4 TV <http://www.clickondetroit.com/education/michigan-election-gag-order-law-draws-lawsuits>

Gag order <http://bridgemi.com/2016/01/michigan-earns-f-for-transparency-while-legislature-helps-it-stay-there/>

Gag order http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/01/local_education_leaders_sue_st.html#incart_river_home

Democrats: "Gag order" on Michigan school districts and cities "hypocritical"
<http://wincountry.com/news/articles/2015/dec/30/democrats-gag-order-on-michigan-school-districts-and-cities-hypocritical/>

Snyder signs Senate Bill 571 into law <http://abc10up.com/snyder-signs-senate-bill-571-into-law/>

Clarify? Repeal? Michigan legislature looks at follow-up options for 'gag order' bill
<http://blogs.mml.org/wp/inside208/2016/01/26/roseville-algonac-dowagiac-officials-are-among-plaintiffs-in-federal-lawsuit-against-gag-order-law/>

County leaders want veto of 'gag order' bill
http://www.michigansthumb.com/news/local/article_0b1b5c52-afbc-11e5-a2ef-efbd9d51a111.html

Even Michigan Republicans feel duped by their leadership about campaign finance bill SB 571
<http://www.eclectablog.com/2016/01/even-michigan-republicans-feel-duped-by-their-leadership-about-campaign-finance-bill-sb-571.html>

Senate Bill 571 goes back to House for clarification
http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2016/01/clarify_repeal_michigan_legisl.html

<http://www.voicenews.com/articles/2016/01/28//news/doc56a2586c930f6593720263.txt>

Gag order' on Michigan school districts won't help them educate voters
http://www.mlive.com/opinion/index.ssf/2015/12/gag_order_on_michigan_school_d.html

Legislators expected to confront 'gag order' bond and millage election law
<http://whct.com/news/articles/2016/jan/13/legislators-expected-to-confront-gag-order-bond-and-millage-election-law/>