



June 3, 2016

Mayor Donald D. Lyons  
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Next meeting: none

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

**Paving projects** City staff and paving contractors have been focusing on the 2016 paving projects for the City of Dowagiac this week. It is expected that most of the major work on the projects will be completed by the end of the workday on Friday.

### **Cass County Drug Enforcement Team (CCDET)**

The voters of Cass County first approved a millage in 2004 to fund countywide efforts to reduce the flow of illegal drugs in Cass County. Since that time, Cass County and city of Dowagiac have jointly participated through CCDET to develop enforcement and prosecution efforts that meet the objectives approved by the voters in the ballot language. The millage is up for renewal in 2016 and voters will once again be asked to consider continuing the funding of drug enforcement activities for another four years. The millage request will be the same as it has been since 2004. No additional millage is being requested.

At the City Council meeting on June 27 representatives from the Cass County drug enforcement team will present information about drug use and trafficking within Cass County and how they are continuing to work to stem the flow of drugs in our communities. Anyone interested in hearing this report and asking questions are encouraged to attend.

### **Airport Terminal building**

Recently city Council rejected the one bid that was received to construct a new airport terminal building. The bid was significantly higher than anticipated. The architects for the project have been actively seeking additional interest in this project and believe that with a few minor revisions to the plans more bidders can be expected. The bid opening is scheduled for Thursday, July 16.

## **Museum Happenings**

Wednesday evening, the Dowagiac Area History Museum wrapped up its Spring Lecture Series with Don Lyons' program, *More Than Lures: The Heddens of Dowagiac*. The lecture series draws an average of 78 attendees per program, however; this night's program a standing-room-only crowd of 115 patrons and proved to be a fine conclusion to the series. Museum Director Steve Arseneau is working on the schedule for the Fall Lecture Series, which will begin in September.

In partnership with Dogwood Fine Arts Festival, the museum continues to host the exhibit of Rick Herter aviation art *If Only I Could Fly: An Aviation Artist Comes Home* through June 25. Herter is a Dowagiac native whose art is collected worldwide and this exhibit includes pieces on loan from the Pentagon and the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

Lastly, June 7 at 6 p.m., the museum will host a fundraiser for students from Sam Adams School in Cassopolis who won at "Michigan History Day" for their program on the Orphan Train. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward sending the students to the national competition in Washington, D.C. The students will do their performance and additional entertainment is scheduled. Tickets cost \$20 and are available at the museum.

## **City Video**

You may have seen multiple cameras in the area this week. Rick O'Rourke, an area videographer under contract with CGI Communications, begin the recording of just some of the resources that make Dowagiac a great place to live work, play and stay.

The video addresses the reasons why someone should consider Dowagiac a place to live or move to, work or to relocate a business. The video will be use on the City's web platforms; website, Facebook and YouTube Channel and will spotlight quality of life resources like our schools, college and medical resources, area businesses, restaurants, non-profits and parks. One more day of filming will take place before the footage is compiled for review.

## **Skate Park**

The Skate Park at Rotary Park has been a highly used facility for skateboarders and bicycle enthusiasts since its opening more than a decade ago. Skateboarders and BMX riders have consistently taken on the responsibility for maintenance and improvements to the park. This week I met with several people at the Skate Park to discuss ongoing maintenance and planned for improvements to this facility.

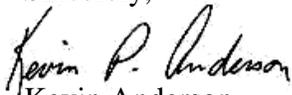
Once again, a group of supporters will be donating their time and materials to make several safety repairs and expand the riding areas. A special thanks goes out to Lance Lyons, Jim Rosenthal, and Tyler Hill for their continued commitment to making the Skate Park a safe and enjoyable experience for all.

## Fly-Day

The Independence Day weekend is shaping up to be a full day of fun for the entire family. The Dowagiac Municipal Airport will be the site of a Fun Fly-Day. Oscar Azevedo, Dowagiac Airport Manager and Event Coordinator for the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Local Chapter 1028, announces a Fly-Day on Friday, July 1.

The group will host a historic 1930s New Standard D-25 Open Cockpit Biplane. Free rides will be available for children and young adults ages 8-17. This historic airplane is one of seven currently flying in the world. It is currently operated for the season, in conjunction with the Kalamazoo Air Zoo Museum by Waldo Wright's Flying Service, a firm with excellent reputation, perfect safety record, FAA certified and fully insured. Flights will start at 10 am- weather permitting.

Sincerely,

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

Kevin Anderson  
City Manager