



July 1, 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:

**Friday July 1**

Today will be a day of great fun at the Dowagiac airport. The day began at 10 AM with **Fly-Day** at the Dowagiac Airport. The community will have the opportunity to fly in a 1930s open-cockpit biplane with kids and young adults (ages 8-17) getting to fly for free.

At dusk **fireworks** will once again be displayed over Russom Park. The display begins at dusk and is once again sponsored by the Young Professionals of Greater Dowagiac.

**Airport Terminal Building**

The architects, Airport Manager Oscar Azevedo, and I met with the contractor, Fiskars Inc., to review timelines for the construction of a terminal building at the Dowagiac municipal airport. Fiskars plan to mobilize during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July and continue construction to its completion which is expected to be in November 2016.

**Entryway Corridor Project**

Demolition of the former Westrate office building and the former dairy building were completed this week. Two of the remaining three buildings scheduled for demolition need to have asbestos removal done prior to demolition. Asbestos removal is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July and all buildings are expected to be razed by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of August.

**CGI returns to Dowagiac July 21** – Videographer, Rick O'Rourke, will be returning to Dowagiac on July 21 to finish filming for the City's promotional video.

## August Election

The next election will be held on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 and the last day to register is Monday, July 5, 2016.

Proposals on the ballot include:

- **Cass County Drug Enforcement Millage Renewal:** In support of law enforcement, criminal justice, and public safety, a proposal to renew the .4805 mill levy against the taxable value of all real and personal property in Cass County for a period of four years.
- **Cass County Millage Proposition for Services to Older Citizens:** A renewal of the .9036 mill levy and an additional mill levy of .0964 for a total 1.0 mill levy in taxable valuation for a period of four years to be used for services to older citizens through the Cass County Council on Aging, Inc.
- **Candidates on the ballot include:**
  - Representative in Congress – 6<sup>th</sup> District
  - Representative in State Legislature – 59<sup>th</sup> District
  - County Prosecutor
  - County Sheriff
  - County Clerk/Register of Deed
  - County Treasurer
  - County Drain Commissioner
  - County Surveyor
  - County Commissioner – 1<sup>st</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Districts
  - Delegates to County Convention

Applications for absentee ballots are available on the shelf across from the utilities desk. If you have questions concerning who is eligible to receive an absentee ballot, please contact the City Clerk, at 783-2502.

## Beckwith Concert Series

The tradition of free Thursday night concerts in the park continues next Thursday, July 7, with the Motown sound, R&B, and Pop with Chameleon's. All concerts begin at 7:30 pm.

## Youth

This week a couple of great stories emerged about young people and their families in our community that simply must be shared.



On Monday the police department followed up on a family's request to give Ethan Nearpass a ride to a fundraiser being held to assist with Ethan's medical expenses. The Police Department decided that they could do better than a ride in a police car. Steve Grinnwald, Public Safety Director, provides the following report:

*Ethan Nearpass was sworn in as an Honorary Police Officer by the Chief of Police in the city council chamber while wearing an actual uniform*

given to him from the department. He proudly took his oath and was given an official ID card showing his status as an honorary officer and presented a certificate which recognized his achievement of becoming an honorary officer.

Officer Nearpass was also given an official department t-shirt with the logo of the Dowagiac Police Department and his name, Officer E. Nearpass embroidered on it. Finally, Officer Nearpass was presented with a coffee mug and a box of donuts. After all, what cop does not love a good cup of coffee and a donut!!!

Officer Nearpass then had the thrill of working his first “shift” as an honorary officer. Officer Nearpass began patrolling the streets of Dowagiac with the Chief looking for the opportunity to help someone in need and searching for any criminals that he may encounter.

After a short time on patrol Officer Nearpass recognized a driver speeding and he and the Chief made a traffic stop on the vehicle. Officer Nearpass got the driver’s license and promptly and professionally wrote the violator a ticket for his minor transgression.

Officer Nearpass cleared the traffic stop and ran code (lights and siren) to Mimi Sarducci’s who was hosting the fundraiser for him. Once there he enjoyed a delicious lunch with some of his fellow officers including the Chief and Deputy Chief. Officer Nearpass ended his work day by being driven to his Aunt’s house for a well-deserved nap after a long “shift.”



On Wednesday Reagan Williamson and her father were interviewed at City Hall by The Dowagiac Daily News about her photo submittals to the City’s quarterly photo contest. It was great to meet this young person and learn more about what she’s looking for when she has a camera in her hand.

Here’s a link to Thursday’s Daily News article:  
<http://www.leaderpub.com/2016/06/30/9-year-old-photographer-featured-in-city-hall-display/>

It is great to live in a City where families and community support one another as they grow.

Sincerely,  
*Kevin P. Anderson*