



September 25, 2015

Mayor Donald D. Lyons  
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

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

Upcoming Meetings: Council Meeting, 9/28, 7:00 pm

### **Riverside Park**



“Have you seen Riverside Park?”  
You really can SEE Riverside Park and its resources. Crews have thinned-out the trees and cleared the brush along Riverside Drive and throughout the Park.



City crews have also installed a flag pole. We are happy to be receiving lots of positive feedback on the aesthetics and care that is being taken about our parks.

### **200 E. Division Building demolition**

After much diligent work and research, Council has approved a contract for the demolition of the vacant “old grey” building at 200 E. Division St. A total on nine companies bid on the project, including Melching and Salenbien Trucking & Excavating, Inc., both Michigan companies. Proposals were forwarded to the surveying and engineering firm Wightman and Associates for further review.

Melching, Inc., of Nunica, Michigan, has outstanding references and performs its own asbestos abatement work. The City was originally estimating the project to cost half a million dollars or more, Melching’s estimate came in \$100,000 under anticipated bid. A grant awarded by the MDOT Blight Elimination Program for \$250,000 will further reduce the amount of demolition. The City’s investment will also include cleanup of the site and planting grass.

The contract has been signed and Council is awaiting a start date. Weather permitting, the project should be completed by the end of the year.

### **Loose Leaf and Brush Removal**

Yes, leaves will soon be falling and exposing those bare branches you have been meaning to trim. Well, the good news is, City Crews will be removing brush Oct 1-30 and loose leaves through November.

Leave should be raked into piles within 6"-8" of the curb. Please do not rake leave into the street or closer to the curb line, as they become a safety hazard and interfere with storm and water drainage.

Pick up of brush, branches and grass clippings can be scheduled by calling 782-8200. See the flyer included with your utility statement for more details.

### **Riverside Drive Expansion Opening Soon**

Final touches are scheduled on the new section of Riverside Drive. The final layer of pavement is scheduled for Sunday, with lane marking and sign installation next week. The road is expected to be open to the public and school traffic on Monday, October 5.



### **PARK(ing) Day**

A pop-up park greeted well over 100 visitors, shoppers and folks on their way home from work Friday, September 18. International PARK(ing) Day had come to Dowagiac.



PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event where citizens, artists and activists collaborate to temporarily transform a parking space into "PARK(ing)" spaces: temporary public places. The mission of PARK(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for urban and open space, and to generate dialog around how public space is created and allocated, to improve the quality of life.

Wightman & Associates and City staff greeted people who visited the temporary park and spent a few minutes having fun as well gathered valuable feedback. Comments about what people would like to see in the city were posted on cards and stuck on the scarecrow. These comments will become part of feedback used in community planning. Visitors represented a diverse cross-section of our community. The youngest visitor was seven years old was quick to add her wish list to the scarecrow.

I'm also pleased to report that the Facebook interest in PARK(ing) Day has been strong and we have continued to receive comments and ideas for community planning. Wightman is in the process of tabulating the comments and all comments will be shared with Mayor and Council.

### **November Election**

The next election will be held on Tuesday, November 3. Those eligible or interested in an absentee ballot may contact the City Clerk at 782.2195.

### **James E. Snow Building**

Construction on the next office suite has made great progress over the last two weeks. Plumbing revisions are complete, electrical work and fire suppression installation finished this week and sheetrock is being hung. Medical equipment and office furnishings will be delivered when construction is complete. Contractors are hard at work to make sure that the opening of Advanced Dermatology's Dowagiac office is a success.



Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Kevin P. Anderson in black ink.

Kevin P. Anderson  
City Manager