



January 23, 2015

Mayor Donald D. Lyons  
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Upcoming Meetings: City Council, 1/26, 7 PM

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

**Ambulance Garage update**

Progress continues on the ambulance facility that is under construction in the city's Industrial Park. Fryman Construction has completed the exterior framing, wrapping and roofing has been installed. Preparations are being made now for pouring the floor.



**Dowagiac Area History Museum renovations update**

On Monday, Council will be asked to consider authorizing the Dowagiac Area History Museum's second floor remodeling project, which been in the planning and fundraising stage for a year.

Plans call for the space to be divided into two separate galleries: one will house a permanent exhibit and one will be a temporary gallery. The permanent exhibit will examine the history of Dowagiac from the railroad's arrival in 1848 to the present with exhibits exploring the following topics:

- Settlement and early Dowagiac
- The Orphan Train
- Front Street and Dowagiac commerce
- Judd Lumber and Colby Mill
- Dowagiac's post World War II industry: Jessup Door, Jessco, Ameriwood, Rudy Manufacturing, etc...
- 246<sup>th</sup> Armored National Guard unit
- Public service in Police and Fire Departments
- Fun In and Around Dowagiac (Fraternal Organizations, Lakes and resorts, sports, etc...)
- Southwestern Michigan College
- Dogwood Fine Arts Festival
- Rehabilitation and resurgence of downtown Dowagiac beginning in the 1990s

The museum has been working with general contractor Tom Burling to gather quotes from sub-contractors and plans to work with Burling as the lead contractor on the project. According to Burling, the renovation of the second floor is a four-month project. If the project is approved at the January 26 meeting, construction could begin in early February with completion of the renovation expected in late May or early June.

After completion, the Museum Director and volunteers would need several months to assemble and install the permanent exhibit, *Dowagiac 1848 to...*, with expected opening of the gallery in September 2015. The Museum Director plans to leave the temporary gallery as a reception area for the opening and would work on installation of the first exhibit on local military history, with an opening in early 2016.

### **LaGrange Township Fire Contract**

As staff prepared for the 1/22 meeting with LaGrange Township, an information sheet was developed that provides an overview of the equipment and services that are provided to all residents and property owners in the city as well as those served through contracts with adjoining townships and the Pokagon Band. Enclosed is a copy of the information sheet. It is a good reminder of that the department is not only well equipped, but also committed to training and skill development our firefighters. This combination has resulted in the best possible response times and care when emergency situations arise.

### **Miss Dowagiac Pageant - January 24, 7:00 pm**

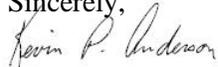
The 76<sup>th</sup> annual crowning of Miss Dowagiac is this Saturday, at the Performing Arts Center.

### **Southwestern Michigan College – January 29, 6:30 pm – Free Movie Screening of “Smoke Signals”**

As part of the community wide One Story Project, SMC will host a free showing of Sherman Alexie’s movie, *Smoke Signals*, which is based on his book, *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*. Free refreshments will be served. Doors open at 6:00 pm and movie begins at 6:30 pm.

**Ice Time Festival – Saturday, February 7** – Mark your calendars for a fun-filled, family day downtown.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson  
City Manager

# **DOWAGIAC FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **OUR PEOPLE:**

The Dowagiac Fire Department is staffed 24 hours-a-day/365 days a year by a firefighter who is trained to Fire Officer III, which is the highest level of fire officer training. Currently 43% of the Dowagiac Fire Department personnel are Fire Officer II or higher trained. Collectively there is over 236 years of firefighting experience by members of the Dowagiac Fire Department.

The Dowagiac Fire Department is currently staffed by 4 full-time firefighters and 12 part-time firefighters (paid on-call). The command structure is made up of (1) Deputy Fire Chief, (1) Captain, and (5) Lieutenants. All firefighters are trained to Firefighter II training level within 1 yr.

Below is a list of some of the certifications, trainings, and capabilities of the personnel who are the Dowagiac Fire Department:

- Staff and Command Supervisor Training (Eastern Michigan University)
- National Fire Protection Association Certified Fire Inspector
- FEMA Command & Management of Major and Expanding Incidents and Disasters
- National Fire Academy Certified Fire/Arson Investigator
- State of Michigan Certified Fire Instructors
- State of Michigan Certified Emergency Vehicle Driving Instructors
- FEMA Certified Emergency Management Instructors
- Fire Officer Levels I, II, III
- Incident Safety Officer Trained

## **OUR EQUIPMENT:**

The Dowagiac Fire Department utilizes the following apparatus for firefighting operations:

- Engine 220 (750 gal water, 4 person crew, attack/supply hoses, tools/equipment, computer)
- Engine 221 (1200 gal water, 6 person crew, 30 gal class B foam, hydraulic/pneumatic rescue equipment, computer)
- Ladder 240 (300 gal water, 6 person crew, attack/supply hoses, tools/equipment, 75' ladder with 2000 gpm nozzle)
- Unit 260 (grass/wildland fire unit, 250 gal water, wildland hoses, tools/equipment)
- Scout Unit (ATV, wildland firefighting/search & rescue, 30 gal water, tools/equipment)

## **OUR FACILITIES:**

The Dowagiac Fire Department facility is utilized for the following operations:

- Emergency Operations Center
- Tactical Operations Center and Command Post for major events and disasters
- Back-up fire communications for Cass County 911
- Staging location for Michigan Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) Division 3502
- Staging location for 5<sup>th</sup> District Medical Disaster Unit
- Tornado siren control/monitoring point

## **OUR SERVICES:**

Below are several services offered by the Dowagiac Fire Department:

- Fire Inspections
- Pre-Incident Survey Information for Businesses/Buildings
- Fire/Arson Investigations
- National Fire Academy Juvenile Fire-Setter Intervention Program/Counselor
- Fire Extinguisher Training
- First Aid/CPR Training for Businesses/Corporations
- Child Car Seat Inspections

