



October 30, 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: None

Blight elimination projects - Our City Council is committed to eliminating blight properties and the following highlights recent actions that have been completed, actions that are in progress, and activities that are planned to be done by spring.

- Work is progressing at 200 East Division Street (Big Grey.) The asbestos work is underway now and exterior work will be visible in the next few weeks.
- The home owner of 505 Third St. razed the house because the foundation was caving in.
- 512 Keene Ave. was bought by the Dowagiac Area Credit Union for future expansion. The house was razed.
- Properties that had fallen into disrepair have now been razed for code violations include 226 E. High and 303 Walnut St. Both houses have been vacant for a few years.
- City of Dowagiac bought 504 Keene Ave., 303 Parsonage and 403 West St. for the purpose of rehabilitation and improving the neighborhood. 403 West St. was severely damaged by water and has been razed. The other two houses will be placed on the market for sale shortly and more information will be shared when they are available to the public.
- 110 Ashland and 307 Commercial St. will have an Asbestos Survey done within the next couple of weeks. Once the city gets the Asbestos Survey done and if there is any asbestos it will be removed before demolition.
- Starting Monday, November 2, 2015 305 Pennsylvania Ave. will have the asbestos removed. It will then be ready for demolishing at the same time as 307 Pennsylvania Ave.



The removal of several distressed properties in neighborhoods blends well with the investment many residents are making in their homes. Many have taken advantage of the financial assistance provided by the city's Housing Incentive Program. Program applications are available at City Hall and all are encouraged to submit for their projects to the Design Review Committee that meets quarterly to consider projects for funding.

Election reminder – November 3 – Please exercise your right to vote in Tuesday’s election. Important school millage and local officials are on the ballot. Election polls (Dowagiac City Hall) will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

East Railroad – Road construction and resurfacing of East Railroad Street is scheduled to begin the week of November 4. The concrete for curb repairs and sidewalk ramps was poured today.

Leaf/Brush Pick-Up Program

The leaves have been doing their best to hang on through October. Even though our leaves have been a bit late, please be reassured the DPS Crews will continue leaf pickups into November and as long a weather permits. Please take advantage of this service now, before the snow arrives.

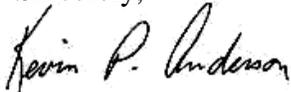
City residents who have bagged there leaves and/or yard waste can schedule a pickup by calling **782.8200** or emailing: DPS Service request@dowagiac.org. Please note that requests are subject to crew workload conditions and availability.

Residents are always welcome to bring brush or yard waste to the City compost site located at Riverside Cemetery. The compost site is open Tuesdays from 4 pm to dusk and Saturdays from 10 am to 3 pm through November 30th when it closes for the season.

Go Chieftains

Let the playoffs begin!

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson
City Manager