



November 14, 2014

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Upcoming Meetings: CAUA meeting 7:00 pm

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

Looking Good Dowagiac!

Residents are utilizing the Housing Incentive rebates to beautify their homes and neighborhoods.

The Housing Incentive meeting held on 11/12/2014 reported:

10 applications were reviewed 7 for house improvements and 3 for tree removals.

- Estimated project value for the house improvements was \$31,300.00
- Total payout for house improvement was \$1,500.00
- Estimated project cost for tree removal was \$5,000.00
- Total payout for tree removal was \$275.00

There is a balance of \$8,500.00 in the house improvement funds and \$1,725.00 in the tree removal funds.

Wayfinding Signs

The purpose of the wayfinding sign project is to guide residents and visitors to points of interest throughout the City - providing concise, beautiful fixtures that provide a service and add to the aesthetics of the community.

Dowagiac has worked hard to provide resources that enhance the quality of life. The area's trails, parks, museums, educational and entertainment venues, markets, restaurants and shopping areas also draw traffic and tourism.

The contract has been awarded to Valley City Signs of Comstock Park, MI. Permit application and fabrication will begin soon.

Eyes on Dowagiac

Congratulations to Vickie Phillipson, the Downtown Development Authority, the Chamber of Commerce and its board members. Dowagiac and its Christmas Celebration were profiled in the November edition of the *Downtown Promotion Reporter*, a publication of the Downtown Research & Development Center. The center provides news, information and data for successful downtown revitalization through its newsletters, books, reports and website.

The article entitled, “Capture Consumer Attention Pre-Holiday Season,” detailed Dowagiac’s three-part holiday celebration that includes Christmas Open House Weekend and its Family Activities Day, and the Candle-light Christmas Parade, which in recent years has been consistently more than 100 units strong; and Small Business Saturday.

The two-page article and separate sidebar on Dowagiac’s Small Business Saturday also depicted photographs of last year’s Open House performances by Positively Dance and Jeff Robinson’s school choir students along with staff from Vincent J. Jewelers that featured this community’s Small Business Day signage.

Congratulations for capturing the interest of residents, neighboring communities, tourists and your national peers.

Dowagiac Featured in “The Review Magazine”

The revitalization process of downtown has not escaped the eye of *The Review* magazine, published by the Michigan Municipal League. The article visits some of the struggles and victories of the rekindling of downtown that began nearly three decades ago. Those goals are still alive today and are shared by business owners who were not even in business in 1985.

Visit <http://www.mml.org/thereview/review-nov-dec2014/> (page 12) and read the article for yourself.

Christmas Open-House Weekend – November 14, 15 & 16

Get in the holiday mood by visiting the multitude of events across the city this weekend.

Holiday Hours

City Offices will be closed for the holiday 11/27 and 11/28.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson
City Manager