



November 7, 2014

Mayor Donald D. Lyons  
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Upcoming Meetings: City Council Meeting – Monday 11/10/14, 7:00 pm

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

**Leaf pick up**

DPS is currently running two leaf machines 10 hours a day including Saturdays.

The City will be receive a new pull behind vacuum next week. Upon delivery, it will be placed in to service, giving us three machines to service the City.

**Downtown Master Plan**

Last month Council approved an agreement with SmithGroupJJR to assist in updating the long-term development plan for the downtown. The current plan has served the community well for the past 25+ years, but the time has come for the community to plan for the next 25 years. Yesterday Mayor Lyons and I met with the consultants to tour the community and begin the planning process. Plans are now being made for a community meetings and focus sessions for the first week of December 2014. More details will come next week as times are finalized.

**Rudy Park**

Concept plans have been prepared for Rudy Park that focuses on providing an area for vehicle parking and improved access and visibility to the water. These concepts will be shared with the Parks Committee, Planning Commission and other interested groups for comment prior to inclusion in a Park Master Plan Update so that proposed improvements can become eligible for state grants.

**101 Cass Avenue Park**

Work on concept plans for a park and trail system connected to property located at 101 Cass Avenue the first draft should be ready for Council next week. The focus of this plan will also embrace views of and access to the Dowagiac Creek and potentially serve as a trailhead for a trail system that connects with existing sidewalks and community trails.

**New Pop-Up business for the Holiday Season**

Check out the newest shop on the block. Peddler's Market, located at 145 S. Front Street (next to Underwood Shoes.) Market hours are Wednesday - Friday 10 am to 6 pm and Saturdays 10 am to 3 pm. Peddler's Market features items from local artisans, crafters, pickers and "peddlers."

**Christmas Open House Weekend – November 15, 15, 16**

# DOWAGIAC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

## Open House Weekend November 14-16

### Friday, November 14

9 am - 7 pm . . . Visit the Christmas Open Houses of our specialty shops, as we kick off the Yuletide Season with in-store events the entire weekend. Shopkeepers present their finest merchandise, special discounts, festive treats & weekend drawings. Open Houses continue through Sunday, 12 to 4 pm.

### Saturday, November 15

9 - 2 pm . . . Enjoy the hand-made works of Michiana artisans, showcased at the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Theta Mu Sorority Craft Show, located at Dowagiac Union High School on Prairie Ronde.

9 - 5 . . . Christmas Open Houses at our specialty stores continue, as shopkeepers attend to your every need. For those who tire easily, distinctive dining and even an old-fashioned soda fountain provide the perfect spot to rest awhile.

10 - 2 . . . A true-to-life **Old-World Santa** greets families within the elegant indoor setting of Wood Fire Italian Trattoria. Enjoy the warm surroundings of the Pompeii Room, where children receive a coloring book from **St. Nick** & can register for a gift basket of toys & invitation to appear with Santa in the Candle-light Parade!

10 - 2 . . . Join **Mrs. Claus** at Caruso's Candy Kitchen, where children can make a jingle bell bracelet & enjoy **Kringle Krafts** from 10 to 5 at Who Knew? Consignment.

10 - 2 . . . Our restaurateurs wish you **Sweet Tidings**, as they serve complimentary, bite-size samples of holiday desserts. Be sure to vote for your favorite at Caruso's, Deb's Café, Wood Fire Italian Trattoria & Wounded Minnow Saloon!

10 - 2 . . . Celebrate "Sister to Sister" at **Rosy Tomorrow's**. In-house Artisan Michelle Stambaugh of Mud-Luscious invites you to bring your best friend, mom or daughter and make a gift for someone special or to keep. Nominal \$5 fee.

10 - 2 . . . At Beckwith Park families can meet Holly from **Country Reindeer Farm** and enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides.

10 - 2 . . . Warm up with hot chocolate, served by contestants of the Miss Dowagiac Scholarship Pageant and meet **Pastry Artist Jordan Anderson**, owner of The Baker's Rhapsody. Be sure to take home some of his delightful creations! Nominal fee.

10 - 2 . . . The Kari Lynch Band presents favorite **Christmas carols** at the gazebo.

11 - 2 . . . Mable Hartman leads an interactive **Christmas Card Design Workshop** for families at Dowagiac Area History Museum. Materials supplied.

11 - 2 . . . Live **elves spread their whimsical magic**, greeting shoppers from our holiday storefront window displays. Presented by Miss Michele & Co. & participating retailers.

11:30 - 12:15 . . . Dance into the holidays with **Positively Dance!**

12:15 . . . Welcome members of the Extreme Poms Team from Miss Michele & Co.

### Sunday, November 16

Noon - 4 . . . Enjoy holiday shopping the way it used to be, as the **Christmas Open Houses** of our specialty shops continue. Be sure to register for the **Weekend Drawing** that awards \$50 Universal Dowagiac Gift Certificates to several holiday shoppers.

### Borgess Tree of Love

Join Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital and our community on **Wednesday, Dec. 3**, at 5:30 for this very special tree-lighting ceremony at Farr Park. Symbolic of the donations raised to provide mammography services to the uninsured, a beautiful pine will be set aglow in pink lights. Honor someone special by making a donation to the **Borgess Tree of Love Campaign**. For every \$8 donation, you can help an uninsured woman receive free mammography services.



## Candle-light Parade

### Friday, December 5

6 pm . . . As you await evening festivities, savor the hot chocolate and sweet delights available from our street vendors.

6:15 - 7 . . . Gather 'round the Beckwith Park for our Tree-Lighting Ceremony, pre-parade entertainment featuring **ACTION Chorale & Positively Dance**, and community caroling also led by ACTION.

7 pm . . . Listen for the tolling bell of our Town Crier and join Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital and the Chamber as we usher in one of **Michigan's largest holiday events**. Our Candle-light Parade of 100 lighted floats, costumed characters & marching bands makes this a magical evening you'll long remember!

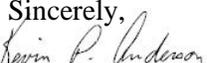
### Our Proud Sponsors. . .

Borgess-Lee Memorial Hospital & the Chamber of Commerce, as the **Proud Hosts** of our celebration, along with these sponsors, invite you to enjoy our Grand City during this special season. . .

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[www.DowagiacChamber.com](http://www.DowagiacChamber.com) 269.782.8212

Sincerely,  
  
Kevin P. Anderson  
City Manager