



December 11, 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 12/14, 7:00 pm

### **Goerlich Building Update**

The large equipment is on-site and has been taking care of the final interior debris. Demolition of the North end of the building is scheduled to begin Monday morning 12/14/15.



### **Housing Incentive Meeting**

Steve Allen of Code Enforcement, reports on the December 9, 2015 Housing Incentive Meeting. The incentive fund began with \$10,000 in the exterior fund and \$2,000 in the tree removal fund.

The department has reviewed 14 applications. Of those, nine were exterior projects and five were for tree removal with a total of six trees being removed.

- Total project cost \$51,150.00
- Total awarded for exterior projects \$2,125.00
- Total awarded for tree removal \$650.00
- There is \$7,875.00 left in the exterior fund and \$1,350.00 left in the tree fund.

### **Permanent Red Med Drop Box**

The Dowagiac Police Department will be installing a permanent prescription drug drop box this week. The box will be placed in the lobby of the Dowagiac Police Department and will be available for use between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday. Anyone with unneeded or unwanted prescription drugs can drop them off at the police department during those times. The box cannot accept any liquid medications or sharps (syringes).



This box was obtained through a collaborative effort of C.A.S.S. Coalition, Woodlands Behavioral Health and the Dowagiac Police Department. There are actually three police departments that are receiving the Red Med boxes, Dowagiac Police Department, Ontwa Township-Edwardsburg Police Department and the Pokagon Tribal Police Department. The funding for these boxes was provided through a grant from Southwestern Michigan Behavioral Health with the fiduciary being Woodlands Behavioral Health.

Prescription drug abuse is rising throughout the area and this is a safe and legal way for people to get rid of expired or unneeded medications. According to a study by the DEA, the first illicit drug abused by kids 12-17 are prescription drugs. These drugs are usually obtained from a family or friends medicine cabinet. Other drugs are simply thrown away or flushed which can cause environmental concerns. The Dowagiac Police Department encourages anyone with unneeded medications to drop them off at the police department.

There will also be a Red Med box located at the Dowagiac Family Fare Supermarket. The box will be delivered to Family Fare within the next few days for installation. This box is provided to Family Fare for their use; however, it is under the supervision of the Dowagiac Police Department. This will give area residents two options when needed to safely dispose of medication.

### **Dowagiac Police carrying Naloxone/NARCAN:**

Officers of the Dowagiac Police Department are in the process of receiving training on the carrying and use of Naloxone Hydrochloride, commonly referred to as NARCAN. NARCAN is an opioid antagonist/blocker and is used when dealing with a drug user who is experiencing a suspected opioid-related overdose.

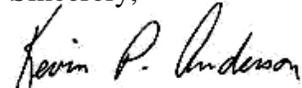


The use of opioid based prescription medication is on the rise as well as overdoses that result from their use. An opioid addiction can also lead to the use of heroin which is highly addictive and very dangerous. Unfortunately the Dowagiac Police Department has had to respond to calls of overdoses from opioid based drugs and some of these have resulted in death. NARCAN is a commonly used and very effective drug to block the opioid receptors in the brain from being affected by the opioid. Once administered a person can come out of an overdose rather quickly.

Michigan Public Act 462 of 2014 allows trained peace officers in Michigan to carry and administer NARCAN. NARCAN has been used by several agencies in Michigan with very positive results. Simply put, it is saving lives. A few officers with the Dowagiac Police Department have received training on the use of NARCAN with the remaining officers to be trained soon. The department has received several doses of NARCAN and once all officers have been trained they will begin carrying it with them while they patrol.

The NARCAN is being supplied to the Dowagiac Police Department from Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health free of charge. The department has received several doses with an agreement in place to resupply the department when and if needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin P. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kevin P. Anderson, City Manager