



February 13, 2015

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Upcoming Meetings: CAUA meeting, 2/17 7 PM

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

Housing Incentive Program meeting - The Housing Incentive Program (HIP) has been in existence for over a decade and has provided assistance for residents seeking to improve their homes in all neighborhoods of the City. Each year \$10,000 is budgeted for this program.

Steve Allen, Dowagiac Code Enforcement Officer shared an update of recent improvement projects that were approved at the February 11, 2015 HIP meeting.

Number of applications 8
6 applications are for house improvements
2 applications are for tree removal

Residents are investing \$29,487 for house improvements project cost and \$1,000 for tree removals. The HIP committee awarded \$2,050 to assist residents with their construction.

Congratulations Jim Snow

Today is the last day at City Hall for Mr. Dowagiac, Jim Snow. Thank you to the 100s of people who have called, sent cards and notes or stopped by to wish Jim well on his retirement. Among the special guests to stop by City Hall today were State Senator John Proos, State Representative Aaron Miller, and District Director Clay McCausland of Congressman Upton's office.

Jim was presented with a special tribute plaque in recognition of his 30 plus years of elected public service to his community. In-part, the plaque reads:

“While Jim’s tenure as clerk has ended, his service to the community and friendly personality will be remembered for years to come. Both his service in office and his willingness to serve the members of his community has left a profound impact on the City of Dowagiac and will be greatly missed for years to come.

IN SPECIAL TRIBUTE, therefore this document is signed and dedicated to Clerk Jim Snow. May he know of our admiration for his dedication and service to our community and may he enjoy a long and restful retirement”

John Proos, State Senator 21st District
Fred Upton, Congressman 6th District

Aaron Miller, State Representative, 59th District
Rick Snyder, Governor



Wayfinding signage update – Considerable progress has been made since the last update on the wayfinding sign project. This is a project that the City has been researching and preparing for – for some time. The project adds to the ambiance of the community, sets the stage for visitors’ expectations and highlights many of the regularly used and distinct resources of the City. The signs’ design is as unique as the people and community they represents. Once the proper design, manufacturer and financial timing were in place, progress moved quickly. City Crews, Miss Dig, MDOT, and Valley City Signs have been busy verifying sign placements and underground utilities. Installation will begin in the next couple of weeks. Temporary lane closers will assist in minimal disruption to traffic for commuters and business along the route. Here is one of the signs “hot off the press.”



Dowagiac Area History Museum



Work began on the second floor of the Dowagiac Area History Museum last week. The basic footprint of the space is in place as carpenters built the walls and exhibit cabinetry. Carpenters also installed a back staircase as a secondary egress. M & R Electric began some basic installation and will continue working on the electrical needs of the museum in the coming weeks. Museum Director Steve Arseneau is pleased with the progress so far and still anticipates that the project will be a four-month project with completion in early June. The exhibits will open to the public in the early fall.

Ambulance garage update

Construction of the new ambulance garage has been moving at a steady pace, even in our Michigan winter weather.

The progress is obvious when a building changes the landscape of a neighborhood, however; the interior progress is often less noticeable. Mark Siskaninetz and the workers of Fryman Construction have been keeping pace on the interior of the garage. Work on heat, water and electric in the office area are coming along and the concrete is also complete in the office area. After walls are hung in the bay area of the garage, pouring of the floors will follow. Exterior siding is on its way to completion.

The team expects to remain on target for its completion date.



Sincerely,
Kevin P. Anderson
Kevin P. Anderson
City Manager