



February 27, 2015

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

Dear Mayor Lyons and City Council Members:

Upcoming Meetings: None

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

Dowagiac Area History Museum – Spring Lectures begin March 11

Spring must be around the corner, because the Dowagiac Area History Museum's lecture series will be back in swing next month.

The next lecture will be on March 11 and focus on the Naval War Air Strategy in Vietnam 1968. Rick Sheffer, retired junior officer on Commander Task Force 77, will be presenting the topic. All lectures begin at 6:30 p.m. and are free for members, \$5 for non-members. It is easy to become a member and opportunities to join will be available at the lecture or by stopping by the museum.

May Special Election - Yes, you read correctly, *May*. Michigan voters will be asked to consider a proposal that changes the state tax structure and commits annual funds to improve roads throughout the state. It is important to understand the items we vote upon and the Michigan Municipal League (MML) has put together a great Q&A page which is intended to share facts, not opinions regarding the ballot proposal that can be found at www.mml.org/advocacy/safe-roads-yes-neutral-info.html.

The ballot proposal will have impact on the state sales tax rate, gasoline/diesel fuel tax, School Aid Fund, roads projects, and earned income tax credit. I found that this information to be clear, concise and helpful to my understanding of the changes that will occur should the proposal pass in May.

Ambulance Building- The new ambulance building in the City's industrial park is nearing completion. There is a small amount of siding work to be done and the garage floor needs to be poured then the building will be ready for occupancy. Landscaping will need to wait until spring, but the building will be fully operational soon.

Annual Retreat Workshop Reports (*excerpts of annual reports will publish each week*)

Steve Grinnwald, Director of Public Safety, shared reports of the previous year and goals for the upcoming year for Dowagiac Police and Fire departments.

The police and fire departments answer calls and provide the best service possible, they are also providing community service in many ways to the citizens of Dowagiac. All of the members of the police and fire departments understand that the departments exist for the citizens of Dowagiac and not the other way around. All members take the safety and security of the citizens of Dowagiac very seriously and work very hard to make sure that their calls for help are answered.

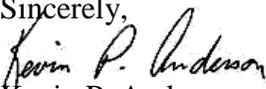
The year saw some turnover in personnel with both departments, as well as challenges with more calls for service and activity. However, these challenges were met head-on by the members of the police and fire departments and handled with professionalism, pride, integrity and compassion. The year saw promotions and positive change as well as a continued emphasis on connecting with the community that we serve.

The members of the Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments are to be commended for their efforts and commitment to the community that they serve. The Dowagiac Police and Fire Departments will continue to provide the best service possible and we look forward to the coming year with excitement and enthusiasm.

In 2014, over all, Dowagiac experienced 9,397 Police and 187 Fire Department calls for service.

For Example

Fire Incidents and Calls:	2013	2014
Total Calls For Service	148	187
Total calls by area served:		
City of Dowagiac:	121	151
Ward 1:	62	78
Ward 2:	28	33
Ward 3:	31	40
LaGrange Township:	12	21
Pokagon Township:	2	4
Pokagon Band Tribal:	1	0
Assist to other departments out of area:	12	11
Response times (From time of call to first unit arriving on scene):	5.17	5.08

Sincerely,

 Kevin P. Anderson
 City Manager