



April 4, 2014

Mayor Donald D. Lyons
City Council Members

City Meetings: Planning Commission, April 7, 7:00 p.m.

Calendar: Easter Eggstravaganza, April 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.-Beckwith Park
Good Friday, April 18 – City Offices Closed
Spring Clean-Up Week – April 21-25

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:

Easter Eggstravaganza

On behalf of the Greater Dowagiac Chamber of Commerce, the annual Easter Eggstravaganza is scheduled to be held on Saturday, April 12th at Beckwith Park beginning at 9:30 a.m. Activities will feature an old- fashioned Easter egg hunt; the "Be a Bunny" costume contest; pictures that families can take of their children with the Easter Bunny; distribution of activity books, and more children's games. In case of inclement weather, the celebration will be moved to the following Saturday.

Spring Clean-Up Week Reminder

As a reminder, spring clean-up week begins Monday, April 21st and continues through April 25th. All materials should be placed at curbside prior to 6:00 a.m. Monday, April 21st, but not prior to Saturday, April 19th. Property owners will be responsible for removal of all remaining debris after the crews have passed down their street. Each street will be scheduled for pick up one time only. For more information regarding spring clean-up week, please see the attached guidelines.

Planning Commission Public Hearing-Lincoln School

On Monday evening the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing and then consider a proposed request to rezone the former Lincoln School to an R-3 Multi-Family Residential District. This request is being made by an individual, Matt Wilkins, who wishes to convert the former school building into several apartments. The former Lincoln School has had a number of relatively short term uses since it last functioned as an elementary school. The City of Dowagiac operated the building as a community center for several years, but found the building too costly to maintain. The building was sold to Encore Dance for a studio. The park in front of the school remained and continues to be owned by the City of Dowagiac and is part of the park system. Encore operations ended in 2013 and the building is now unoccupied and for sale.

Front/Main Project



Progress continues on the new downtown building on the corner of Front and Main Streets. This week crews finished pouring the footings. Next week backfill and underground plumbing will take place. It is anticipated that the floor will be poured within the next 10-14 days.

Downtown Façade Program

Vickie Phillipson reports that Toysa True, owner of Shabby Bou-Chic, is the first business owner to receive an incentive from the Dowagiac Downtown Development Authority following the reinstatement of the DDA's Façade Incentive Program. Since reinstatement of the \$10,000 Façade Incentive & Architectural Design Services Program, the DDA also received applications from downtown property owners Dorothy MottL, Jeff Neumann, Linda Preston and Bob Haas. We look forward to supporting those business owners in their application.

DART/Human Resources Annual Report

The annual reports of City departments continue this week with DART/Human Resources. Here are highlights from Rose Scherr's report:

DART. GPS units were introduced to the buses in August/September 2011. DART has used this tool to route buses more efficiently, to track idling time and to monitor location and speed of the buses. Since implementation, we have achieved a 9% increase in mileage efficiency (545 gallons saved in 2012-13).

Dial-A-Ride Transit continues to find creative avenues to address the decline in state transportation funding. In the coming year, we will explore the opportunity for consolidation of transit services with the Cass County Transportation Authority (CCTA). This would include day-to-day operation of the buses, repair and maintenance, dispatching (already contracted). Advantages to this include:

- Improvement in service for the system's users.
- More efficient use and maintenance of the vehicles.
- Better coordination of bus routing with reduced duplication of service.
- More efficient use of staff.

The DART system would continue to be funded through a combination of state, federal and local funding (millage) and the fares collected from the passengers.

Health Insurance. Aggregate health insurance costs have been held in check over the years by means of increasing the out of pocket deductibles and the co-pays for office visits, prescriptions and emergency room visits. Additionally, EVIP hard caps went into effect on October 1, 2012, which caps the amount the City may contribute for health insurance for an employee based on single (\$5,500), 2-person (\$11,000) and family (\$15,000) categories. Each year the hard cap increases by the medical Consumer Price Index. The cost above the Hard Cap is passed on to the employee.

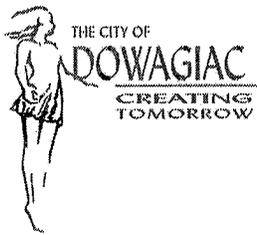
Finding group health insurance that was affordable to our employees was one of our biggest challenges this year. The end result was the City switched health care providers and we were able to hold the costs to an acceptable level.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin P. Anderson".

Kevin P. Anderson
City Manager

Attachment



SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK **APRIL 21 – APRIL 25, 2014**

CITY OF DOWAGIAC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES

*******All materials must be placed curbside prior to 6:00 a.m. Monday, April 21, 2014*******

The following restrictions apply to all disposed materials:

1. Refuse must be neatly placed curbside in an orderly fashion.
2. No refrigerators, freezers, or air conditioners will be accepted; unless certification sticker is placed on item indicating that the freon has been removed.
3. No household garbage will be accepted.
4. No individual item over 5' long, 3' wide, or 3' high, weighing over 100 lbs will be accepted.
5. No automotive/marine batteries will be accepted.
6. No tires or rims will be accepted.
7. No materials that are prohibited from disposal in TYPE II landfills (paints, solvents, oils, etc.) will be accepted. (Note: Paint cans that are open and contain only DRY paint will be accepted.)
8. No propane cylinders will be accepted.
9. All construction / demolition material must be less than one cubic yard in total volume for curbside pickup.
10. No lawnmowers or small engines will be accepted unless the gasoline has been completely drained.
11. Total curbside volume shall not exceed 3 cubic yards.
12. Windows, glass, and mirrors must be less than 3' x 4' in size.

EACH STREET WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR PICK-UP ONE TIME ONLY.

To minimize blighting effects within our neighborhoods, **debris may not be placed curbside prior to Saturday, April 19, 2014.** Violators will be subject to penalties as prescribed by the City's Blight Ordinance.

Property owners will be responsible for clean up and removal of any remaining debris **AFTER** pick up crews have passed through their neighborhood.

For questions regarding the Spring Clean-up Program, or to inquire about disposal alternatives, please contact the Department of Public Services office at 782-8200; email us at DPS_Service_Request@dowagiac.org; or visit the City's website at www.cityofdowagiac.com.

Thank you for your cooperation.