



May 1, 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:

### **Main and Pennsylvania Parking Lot**

This summer City Council has committed to improving the parking lot on Main and Pennsylvania that is adjacent to the Huntington Bank Parking lot. City crews will begin installing storm sewer catch basins and pipe next week. Curbs on Main will be removed and clearly defined parking lot with access from Pennsylvania and from the alley will greatly enhance this parking lot for all to use.

### **Museum Renovation Progress**

The renovation project at the Dowagiac Area History Museum is entering the final stages as progress has continued at a steady pace. In the past three weeks, fire suppression has been finalized; the ceiling was installed; and electrical work is nearing completion. According to Museum Director Steve Arseneau, "Every phase of the project has given me a better sense of how the space will appear, but with the installation of the ceiling and lighting I can really get a sense of the final product." Carpet installation is planned for the week of May 11 and exhibit production should begin by early June.

### **Our students have "Skills"**

Director of Public Safety, Steve Grinnewald, shared a press release that was prepared by the Michigan State Police regarding a program that members of the City of Dowagiac participated. Here are excerpts of the press release:

*SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce and strives to help each student excel. SkillsUSA works with students from middle school through college.*

*Skills USA sponsors a competition that compliments the successful Criminal Justice Degree program and the Criminal Justice Club at Southwestern Michigan College (SMC). The competition consists of two parts: Criminal Justice and Crime Scene Investigation.*

*Retired Cass County Sheriff Dept. Captain, Lyndon Parrish (Security Operations for SMC) chose Deputy Chief Jarrid Bradford, of the Dowagiac Police Department, to train/run the criminal justice portion of the competition. Trooper Rob Herbstreith, of the Michigan State Police, Niles Post, was*

*chosen to train/run the crime scene portion. This would be the first year of the competition for SMC club.*

*Training began in November 2014 with area college and high-school dual enrollment students. In February 2015, both sections qualified for the State Championship from Region 1, Post-Secondary Colleges.*

*Deputy Chief Bradford is proud to announce that on Saturday, April 18, 2015, both teams were very successful.*

*Deputy Chief Bradford's Team*

*Individual Criminal Justice Competition*

*Justin Desjardin qualify gold*

*Tyler Fye qualify silver*

*Trevor Shepherd qualified bronze*

*Trooper Herbstreith's Crime Scene Team*

*John Brown*

*Nicole Brill*

*Abigail Guyott*

*the Team received gold*

*Both sections qualified for the national championship in Kentucky in June 2015.*

*One of Trooper Herbstreith's team members, Abigail Guyott, also took honors by placing in the Top 20 of the written leadership test.*

*The individual competition consisted of a traffic stop and subsequent search of the driver. The crime scene competition consisted of documentation of the scene via sketch and photography, processing evidence for DNA and fingerprints, collection of all evidence, and report writing.*

### **Museum Advisory Board**

The Museum Advisory Board met this week to take a hard look at where the museum needs to focus its energy as they look to the future. While this was a first step in the process, it was good to see a group intently focus on the needs and direction for this community assets. I will keep you informed as they progress.

### **Get Out and Enjoy the Blossoms!**

It looks like it will be a great weekend for walk. Flowering trees are in in bloom. Step out and enjoy your neighborhood, the beautiful, historical cemetery, walk a tour of the sculptures across the city, or explore the trails of Rudolphi Woods, SMC trails, or the Dowagiac Woods.

Sincerely,



Kevin P. Anderson

City Manager