



September 26, 2014

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:

### **Fiscal Year End**

September 30, 2014 marks the end of another fiscal year. Yesterday the auditors were in for preliminary testing of our financial procedures and will be returning in November for full on-sight audit work. In the meantime staff will close out the books for the year and send documentation of transactions to the auditors. While the audit process is time consuming, it is critical to making sure procedures are in place and followed so that appropriate stewardship of public funds can be assured.

### **Former Landfill Update**

From 1959 to 1984, the City operated a landfill on Nubour Road in Wayne Township, which was subsequently closed pursuant to Michigan Department of Environment Quality (MDEQ) rules. For a number of years, MDEQ installed monitoring wells and monitored the groundwater in the area. Several years ago the monitoring wells were transferred to the City and since that time the City has been working with the professional environmental firm of Conestoga Rovers for advice and assistance.

The first priority has been to eliminate the possible exposure of contaminants to people living in the area near the former landfill. Bottled water has been, and continues to be, provided to all homes that have had water tests that exceed safe drinking water standards. Additionally, the City has been working with Wayne Township to extend public water to homes in the area. The city has agreed to share in the special assessment costs, provide maintenance of the water system infrastructure in perpetuity and provide simultaneous response to structure fires in the Nubour Road and Davis Lane areas. Wayne Township has a meeting on Tuesday to make final decisions regarding this project. If approved, construction will begin soon.

The second priority, under the guidance of Conestoga Rovers, is to quantify the size of the contaminated area, the flow of contaminants and what steps are necessary for cleanup. This will be an ongoing project for the foreseeable future and will include a series of monitoring wells that will allow for monitoring of the three aquifers in the area.

**Dowagiac Fly-In Features Warbirds Roundup - Sunday, Sept. 28, 7 am – 11 am**

More than 70 years' worth of history will touch down at the Dowagiac Municipal Airport this weekend, as 20 World War II- era airplanes participate in the fly-in event Sunday. Bring the family and let the Dowagiac Lions Club prepare your pancake breakfast starting at 8:30 am. Admittance to the airport for the event is free.

**Amtrak's Blue Water Line 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Oct. 1**

Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Michigan Amtrak Blue Water Line on Wednesday, October 1. The Blue Water Line connects Port Huron to Chicago with stops in Lapeer, Flint, Durand, E Lansing, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, Dowagiac, Niles, and New Buffalo.

Greet the anniversary train at our very own historical depot at 10:30 am and share in some tasty fall treats. It is not too late to join in on the fun. Reserve your tickets at Amtrack.com. A special anniversary fare is available today through October 1. Receive 40% off all adult companion tickets and (up to two) children's fares are 50% each - on any Blue Water Line tickets.

**Behind the Mask Candlelight Vigil – Oct. 2**

The Domestic and Sexual Abuse Services of Cass County Task Force on Family Violence will hold an event remembering those lost to domestic violence and helping survivors heal. Beckwith Park will be the venue for a 5:30 pm Memorial Mask Workshop & 7:00 pm Candlelight Vigil.

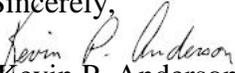
**Football Homecoming – Oct. 3**

Cheer your Dowagiac Chieftains on to victory over the Coloma Comets, Friday, October 3. The parade begins at the High School at 5:00 pm. The route will take Prairie Ronde from the teacher's lot to: N Lowe, McPhil Dr., West Wayne St., Orchard St., Spruce St., Main St., into Chris Taylor Alumni Field. Take a tour across the country with this year's float theme of "Famous Cities." Kickoff is 7:00 pm.

**Save the date**

- Under the Harvest Moon – October. 11
- Grand Opening - Front and Main – Thursday, October 23

Sincerely,

  
Kevin P. Anderson  
City Manager