



*The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870*

Good Afternoon Everyone.

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of November 30, 2020.

**COVID** – City Hall continues to be open by appointment only and most staff are working remotely to reduce their potential exposure to COVID until at least December 8<sup>th</sup> in accordance with the MDHHS Emergency Order. If you need assistance or would like to schedule an appointment, please call 269-857-1438.

**Mutual Aid** – I spent some time this week reviewing mutual aid agreements between neighboring communities to understand how the agreements are created. I'll be working with Saugatuck next week on a mutual aid plan in light of the COVID epidemic to ensure, during winter road maintenance season, that we have sufficient staffing and a plan in place in the event that COVID severely reduces the number of staff needed to safely maintain winter roads for public travel.

**Beach Revetment Update** –North Shore Property Solutions of Hart, Michigan, has begun installation of the oversized sandbags at Douglas Beach to protect the bluff. I anticipate they will be done within the early part of next week. City staff will then research and gather quotes for the beach access stairs to be reconstructed in spring of 2021.

**Downtown** – All the lighting and Christmas decorations are completed for the downtown and the holiday lighting ceremony went well—socially distanced, of course. Thanks go to Councilman Neal Seabert and his volunteers for all their hard work. It looks great!

**2021 Recycling Schedule** – [https://ci.douglas.mi.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RS-113127-Biz\\_Rec\\_Cal\\_2021-Recycle-Calendar-Douglas\\_Farver.pdf](https://ci.douglas.mi.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RS-113127-Biz_Rec_Cal_2021-Recycle-Calendar-Douglas_Farver.pdf)

**2020 Winter Taxes** – Residents of Douglas will soon see their 2020 Winter tax bill in the mail. We ask that you make tax payments by mail or place in our large black drop box located to the left of our main doorsteps. If you would like a receipt, please provide us with your email address or enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please call us at 269-857-1438 if you have questions regarding an amount.

**Kalamazoo Harbor Study** – Michigan Tech provided an update this week on the Allegan County grant applied for with the financial support of the tri-communities to study sediment and harbor navigation. The study focused on taking core samples to a maximum of 5 feet deep in the lake and river bottom to study the presence of PCB and PCB concentrations. The study will continue in the spring with mapping of the harbor and channel, and a website is being developed to share the information with the public.

**Toys for Tots** – The Police Department has moved the Humvee to Center Street for the annual Toys for Tots and food drive. Please consider making a donation.

**St. Peter's Water Main** – Work on the water main project on St. Peters Drive will begin on Tuesday. The water main work is being performed by private contractors on behalf of St. Peter's Church. The goal is to upsize the water main to accommodate the fire flow requirements for the fire suppression system. The current water main is only 4 inches in diameter and is too small for the building needs.

**Rural Task Force** – I participated in the rural task force meeting this week as the small communities' representative. The Rural Task Force program provides federal dollars to rural counties with a population under 400,000 (78 out of 83 Michigan counties qualify). These dollars must be spent in their geographic areas and both road and transit capital projects are eligible. The City's upcoming Wiley Road trail project will take advantage of Congestion Mitigation Funds available through the Rural Task Force.

**West Michigan Regional Planning Commission** – I met by phone with our regional representative to discuss grant opportunities available to local business. There are a number of resources available at the state and local level that the community could take advantage of if the project criteria fit the opportunity.

That is all I have for now. Have a wonderful weekend.

Rich LaBombard  
City Manager