



The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of April 24, 2023.

Workforce Housing Presentation – At a joint meeting of the City Council and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority on Wednesday evening, a presentation was given by Ryan Kilpatrick from Housing Next about the variety of housing incentives available to the community to incentivize developers to construct workforce housing using tax increment financing tools.

Wayfinding Signage – Staff presented a wayfinding plan to a committee of the DDA this week. The wayfinding signage is intended to unify signage, create a brand, orient and direct visitors to points of interest throughout the City. For this first round of signage, the committee focused on emphasizing the downtown and the Blue Star corridor.

Lead Service Line Replacement – Staff met on site this week with a contractor working on Lakeshore to replace lead services lines to four homes. The City is required to replace five percent of known lead services lines per year.

DDA Meeting – The regular meeting of the Downtown Development Authority was on Wednesday, and the following items were on the agenda:

- Approved a conceptual format for the gateway sign proposed to be located at the intersection of Blue Star Highway and Center street.
- Approved the DDA's budget for the next fiscal year to be presented to the City Council.
- Approved a community promotions contribution to the Douglas Dutchers in the amount of \$250. The original request was for \$500.
- Tabled an application for equipment rental request (tables and chairs)
- Denied a request for community promotions contribution to the Art in Douglas
- Approved community promotions request for Community Pride for \$4,150. Original request was for \$5,500. The community promotion fund was exhausted for this fiscal year.
- Approved a wayfinding plan for the downtown business district with \$34,000 of funds budgeted in FY 22-23

Blue Star Drain Work – A preconstruction meeting was held this week for a drain and sidewalk project budgeted by City Council for 333 Blue Star Highway. The contractor is proposing to begin work next week. If all goes well, the project will last between two and four weeks. A lane shift will be required near the Blue Star / Ferry intersection for the duration of the project. Once completed, the project will provide a sidewalk connection for pedestrians from Wiley Road to Chestnut Street. The Dunes will reimburse the City for the sidewalk construction portion of the project.

New Employee Orientation and Onboarding – I collaborated with staff to develop a new employee orientation and onboarding schedule for new City staff. The document outlines the process for getting new employees acclimated to working in the City and how to access important information to give new employees the best opportunity to succeed.

RAP Grant – This week I participated in an online seminar for the Revitalization and Placemaking Grant. The grant will make up to \$13 million available in the Grand Rapids region to support projects that improve placemaking and revitalize obsolete buildings.

Community EV Toolkit – The Governor announced a new grant opportunity this week to help meet the statewide goal to build 100,000 electric vehicle chargers by 2030 to support 2 million electric vehicles. The grant will fund the installation of new electric vehicle charging stations. The City of Douglas is eligible to apply.

DPW Supervisor Interviews – This week interviews were held for the DPW Supervisor position. With the promotion of the former supervisor to the director position, City Hall advertised for candidates to apply, and three responses were received.

Traffic Signage – New speed limit signs are going up in the City. Staff have formed a traffic team to identify areas where signage is needed and as a result, they have been targeting areas that need additional signage and replacing old worn signage that no longer meets the traffic standards for reflectivity.

Distinctly Douglas – Thank you to everyone who provided photographs. City Hall is asking for high resolution photos for the City’s website that are “*Distinctly Douglas*”. We are requesting artistic high-resolution photos of events, people, parks, parades, blooming flowers, sunsets, sunrises, wildlife (oh deer!), walks along the beach, boating, pets, sculptures, smiling faces, wonderful places, etc. The photographs should convey the distinct feeling of the Douglas community. By submitting photos, you agree to allow the City to place selected photos on the website. We only ask that the photos be taken within the City of Douglas. Photos can be sent to info@douglasmigov.com with the subject line “photo submission”.



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

Rich LaBombard
City Manager