



City of the Village of Douglas Administration Review Week of October 21st, 2024

Public Message from the City of Douglas Mayor, Cathy North

RE: The 415 Wiley Road Build-Out Project: The City of Douglas had been exploring the purchase and redevelopment of the 415 Wiley Road property as part of its long-term plan to enhance city services and create new opportunities for the community. The aim is to relocate City Hall and the Police Department to this site, providing more space for city operations and opening up downtown buildings for sale. This move will help create new opportunities for businesses and housing in the heart of Douglas.

In the fall of 2023, the City officially purchased the 415 Wiley Road property. After reviewing the initial developer's plan, which projected \$12.5 million in rehabilitation costs, the City Council decided to discontinue that plan due to its excessive price. The city reissued a Request for Proposals (RFP) and received seven responses, ultimately interviewing five contractors. The city selected Carbon Six Construction to design the build-out for the first phase of the project, with the new estimate coming in 70% lower than the original—now ranging between \$2.7 and \$3.2 million.

There have been questions about how the project will be funded. The City Council's plan has consistently been to use proceeds from the sale of surplus city properties to cover the costs. Based on the bids received, the sale of these properties has the potential to fully fund the project, with a possible surplus that could be allocated to the general fund for future capital needs. The City has already engaged a realtor to assist in selling surplus properties in the near term, and potentially more in the future, as the 415 Wiley project progresses.

In line with state law, the city will use Public Act 34, which outlines the bond process for securing project funding. The City plans to issue bonds to finance the build-out, and the proceeds from surplus property sales will be used to pay down the bond debt.

****Importantly, this project will not require any new taxes for residents or businesses. Any claims suggesting otherwise are inaccurate. **** The city is committed to ensuring that a sustainable and responsible funding source is in place before moving forward with a project of this magnitude.

This project will bring several benefits to the community, including a larger meeting space at 415 Wiley Road for public meetings and events. Additionally, it will transform a long-vacant building into a functional and valuable city asset.

If you have any questions about the 415 Wiley Road project, please contact City Hall or reach out to a City Council member. We welcome your inquiries and look forward to discussing the exciting future of this project. The City of Douglas is growing, and we believe this project will play a key role in supporting that growth and enhancing the quality of life in our community.



CARBONSIX
CONSTRUCTION

DOUGLAS CITY HALL
Entry Addition Perspective

CR3ATE
ARCHITECTURE

City of Douglas Receives a \$100,000 Consumers Energy Foundation Grant for Douglas Marina Park Improvements:

The City of Douglas has been awarded a \$100,000 grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation to enhance Douglas Marina Park through the addition of a new pavilion and accessible sidewalks. These improvements aim to create a welcoming space for outdoor recreation, including small events, picnics, and other community activities.

The City of Douglas acquired the Douglas Marina property with the goal of transforming it into a vibrant public space that serves as a central gathering spot for residents and visitors alike. The planned pavilion will provide a sheltered area for relaxation and social gatherings, while the accessible sidewalks will ensure that everyone, regardless of mobility, can enjoy the park's natural beauty and amenities.

“This grant marks a significant step forward in realizing our vision for Douglas Marina Park,” said Greg Freeman, Douglas City Councilmember and Chair of the Douglas Harbor Authority. “We are thrilled to receive this support, which will help us create a vibrant space for our community to gather, enjoy outdoor activities, and make lasting memories. With these improvements, we hope to see the park become a favorite spot for both residents and visitors to connect with nature and with each other.”

The City of Douglas extends its heartfelt gratitude to the Consumers Energy Foundation for their generous support. This grant will help kickstart the work to make Douglas Marina Park a dynamic community space, enhancing recreational opportunities and

making the area more accessible for everyone. Additional future planned amenities include a bathroom, improved parking, and ongoing work to continue to improve the grounds.



Welcome Ruth Crowe Artist Studio: During a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 11th, 2024, the City of Douglas and the Douglas Downtown Development Authority welcomed the newest addition to the Douglas Art Scene, Ruth Crowe Artist Studio. We are excited to have Ruth in the downtown district!



General Election Information for the City of Douglas:

- Early In-Person Voting for Douglas Voters: October 26th-November 3rd, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at Douglas City Hall
- Election Day Voting for Douglas Voters: Tuesday, November 5th, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Douglas City Hall

Additional Election Information available by visiting:

<https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/> or <https://douglasmi.gov/elections/>

Shop & Dine Passport Program: The Douglas Downtown Development Authority will be kicking off the Shop & Dine Douglas Passport Program on November 1st and running through November 30th. Thirteen businesses, listed below, will be participating in the program.

Ox-Bow House; Lakeshore Pet Boutique; L Salon; Wild Dog Grille; Brackett & Company Home Accents; Mr. Miller's Art Emporium; Ruth Crowe Artist Studio; Everyday People Café; Happystance; Borrowed Time; Water Street Gallery; Now and Then; and Button Gallery

How the Program Works:

- Passports: Customers can pick up a passport from Douglas City Hall or any participating business from November 1-November 30th.
- Collecting Stamps: As customers visit participating locations, they will collect stamps. No purchase is necessary for them to receive a stamp – just a visit!
- Completion Requirements: Once customers have collected stamps from at least 50% of the participating businesses listed in the passport, they can submit their completed passport.
- Submission Options: Completed passports can be turned in at:
 - Douglas City Hall
 - Any participating business (including yours)
 - The Light Night in Douglas Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Beery Field on Saturday, November 30th, at 6:00 p.m.

Drawing & Prizes:

- Prize Drawing: By submitting a completed passport, participants will be entered into a drawing to win one of three “downtown dollars” prizes to spend at participating businesses in the amounts of \$200.00, \$150.00 & \$100.00.
- Event Participation: Customers do not need to be present at the tree lighting event to participate in the drawing.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thursday, October 31st, 2024: Halloween Trick-or-Treating in Douglas -5:00-8:00 p.m.

Monday, November 4th, 2024: City Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. at City Hall

Monday, November 11th, 2024: City Council Workshop @ 5:30 p.m. at City Hall

Tuesday, November 12th, 2024: Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. at Douglas City Hall

City of the Village of Douglas City Council:

Cathy North, Mayor

Randy Walker, Mayor Pro-Tem

Neal Seabert, Councilmember

Jerry Donovan, Councilmember

John O'Malley, Councilmember

Greg Freeman, Councilmember
Matthew Balmer, Councilmember

City of the Village of Douglas Contact Information:

Website: <https://douglasmi.gov/>

Facebook: www.facebook.com/douglasmi.gov

City Hall: 269-857-1438

Police Department Non-Emergency: 269-857-4339

Saugatuck Township Fire District Non-Emergency: 269-857-3000

Department of Public Works: 269-857-2763

Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority: 269-857-2709

Saugatuck-Douglas District Library: 269-857-8241

For emergencies, please call 911