



**City of the Village of Douglas Administration Report
Week of October 28th, 2024**

Veteran's Day Sign Unveiling/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:

Join us in celebrating and honoring our veterans with the unveiling of the new Veteran's Park Walk Sign. This special event is not only a tribute to the courageous men and women who have served our country, but also a symbol of our community's gratitude and respect. Veteran's Walk Park is located on Washington, just past the Douglas Marina.

When: Monday, November 11th, 2024

Where: Veteran's Walk Park

Time: 4:30 p.m.

Remember and honor. Always.

Veteran's Day Sign Unveiling/Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Keynote Speaker

Announced: The City of the Village of Douglas is honored to have Keri Becker serve as the keynote speaker for the Veteran's Day sign unveiling/ribbon cutting ceremony at Veteran's Walk Park, on Monday, November 11th at 4:30 p.m.

Keri Becker served in the United States Army Reserve from 1992-2008 and was called to active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom from January 2003-February 2004. She was stationed at Camp As Sayliyah in Doha, Qatar, which was a combined joint forces base. While stationed there, she worked in both Transportation and then in Supply, where she became the non-commissioned officer in charge of supply for the Headquarters Commandant at Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT). She achieved the rank of staff sergeant and was honorably discharged in October 2006.



2024 Election Information: The election is right around the corner. Here is some helpful information that the City Clerk would like to share with you. For any questions, please contact the City Clerk's office by email at info@douglasmi.gov, phone at 269-857-1438, or visit city hall during normal business hours which are Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

- Absentee Ballots: Available for pickup at city Hall starting Thursday, September 26th, 2024.
- 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://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/> or <https://douglasmi.gov/elections/>

Ferry Street Update: The City of Douglas is pleased to inform the community that the Allegan County Drain Commission has received the necessary pre-approval from EGLE, and we will continue to work together on the final approval for the replacement of the Ferry Street culvert. This advancement allows our city engineers to begin the bidding process in early November, with bids expected to open on December 3rd. This timeline provides adequate time, with a minimum two-week window, for posting and receiving bids, ensuring a fair and thorough selection process. Once the contract is awarded, the selected contractor will initiate planning and procurement of materials, aiming to start work as early as the first week of February, weather permitting.

Given the scope of this project, we must address several underlying complexities to ensure safety and longevity. The project area includes essential utility lines, which require specialized scheduling and relocation by qualified professionals to protect workers as cranes and other heavy equipment are used. The city engineers have dedicated the past several months to identifying experts in this field to minimize risk and uphold project safety.

Winter weather is a factor in our timeline, as seasonal conditions may cause delays; however, the city's goal remains to complete the project before Memorial Day 2025. Should weather conditions cooperate, we hope to complete the work even sooner, and we appreciate the community's patience as we work around these variables.

In addition to culvert replacement, we are examining options to extend the road to create a walkable pathway for residents and visitors, and discussions on this enhancement are ongoing. Additionally, the city will address a nearby water main that is approaching the end of its lifespan. The water main will be relocated and buried deeper to improve accessibility and protect it from frost, a proactive measure to help prevent future breaks and other issues.

This project is about much more than replacing a single culvert; it involves careful planning to protect surrounding utilities, reducing the potential for extended timelines and additional costs. If contractors can accelerate the timeline, we will work to do so, but we are mindful of winter conditions, material availability, and other factors that may impact scheduling. The city will continue to keep the public informed on our progress throughout the project. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we work to enhance infrastructure and safety in our community.

Root Beer Barrel: We are ecstatic to report that the Root Beer Barrel team had a fantastic 2024 season. Todd Martinson, who is managing the barrel, will be at the City Council meeting on Monday, November 4th at 6:00 p.m. to provide an update. We want to thank Todd for all of the work he did improving the grounds, including the addition of running water, bathrooms, more seating, parking, and options to use credit/debit cards for purchases both at the barrel and online. Todd has more plans for improvements in 2025 which he will outline at Monday's meeting. Thank you, Todd and team! You are a fantastic community partner!



Thank you to the Rotary Club: The City of the Village of Douglas expresses its deep gratitude to the Rotary Club for their generous \$10,000 donation to support milfoil treatment in Kalamazoo Lake Harbor. This much-needed funding will help Douglas continue its critical work to protect the harbor from the spread of invasive milfoil, a plant that threatens water clarity, native species, and recreational activities. The Rotary's contribution significantly bolsters the city's ongoing efforts to keep Kalamazoo Lake Harbor healthy, vibrant, and accessible for everyone in the community and visitors alike.

During the presentation of the donation, pictured were April Gundy, Mayor Cathy North, City Manager Lisa Nocerini, and Rotary President Wayne Titus, all gathered in recognition of this vital partnership.

Notably absent was Greg Freeman, City Councilmember, and Chair of the City of Douglas Harbor Authority, who is recovering from surgery. Greg shared his heartfelt

appreciation, stating, “We’re incredibly thankful to the Rotary Club for their commitment to our community’s well-being and natural resources. Their generous support allows us to take impactful steps toward safeguarding our harbor from invasive species, ensuring a sustainable future for our waters.”

The Rotary’s dedication to this environmental cause exemplifies the power of community partnerships. With this donation, the city can continue regular treatments to manage milfoil growth, preserving the harbor’s natural beauty and biodiversity. Douglas is proud to work alongside organizations like the Rotary Club that share its vision for a thriving, healthy harbor, and the city extends its sincerest thanks for this invaluable support.



Douglas Downtown Development Authority Shop & Dine Passport Program

Begins: The Douglas Downtown Development Authority (DDA) is excited to announce the launch of the first annual Douglas Downtown Passport Program, running from November 1st to November 30th. This program is a fantastic opportunity for residents and visitors to explore the unique shops and eateries that make downtown Douglas special while earning chances to win valuable prizes.

How the Passport Program Works:

- Participants can pick up their free passport at any participating business or from City Hall starting on November 1st, 2024.
- Visit any of the participating businesses to receive a stamp—no purchase necessary. Each business will provide one stamp per passport. Only one passport per person will be issued.
- Once your passport is at least 50% full, you can submit it at any participating business, City Hall, or bring it to the Light Night in Douglas Christmas Tree Lighting Event on Saturday, November 30th by 6:00 p.m. for a chance to win.
- Three winners will be selected to receive Douglas Downtown Dollars in the form of certificates with \$25.00 increments, which can be spent at any participating businesses.

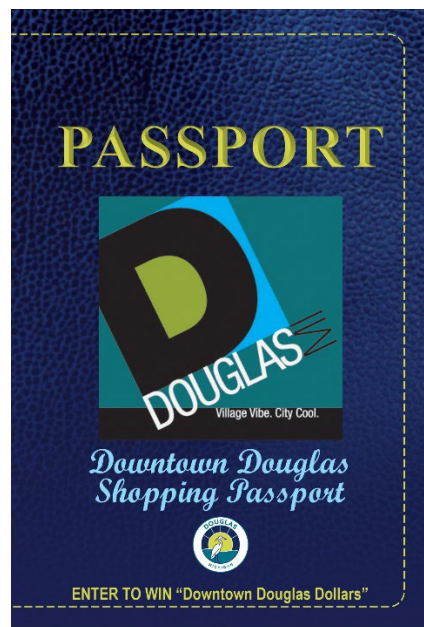
The prize values are \$200.00, \$150.00, and \$100.00. Winners need not be present at the drawing but must ensure their contact information is filled out inside the passport. Participating Businesses Include:

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

Douglas Downtown Dollars can be used at any of these locations, encouraging community members to continue shopping and dining locally. The gift certificates must be used in increments of \$25.00, offering flexibility to winners while supporting our local economy.

This program is a perfect way to explore the unique businesses that Douglas has to offer. Whether you're a longtime resident or just visiting, this is your chance to experience the best of our community, support local businesses, and enter to win fantastic prizes.

We look forward to seeing everyone in downtown Douglas throughout November, and don't forget to join us for the Light Night in Douglas Christmas Tree Lighting Event on November 30th at Beery Field at 6:00 p.m.



Upcoming Meetings & Events

Friday, November 1st, 2024, through Saturday, November 30th: DDA Shop & Dine Passport Program

Monday, November 4th, 2024: City Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

Tuesday, November 5th, 2024: Election Day **City Hall Offices will be closed for the election with staff working remotely. The doors on the west side of the building will be open for the election. **

Monday, November 11th, 2024: Veteran's Day (City Hall is Open)

Monday, November 11th, 2024: Veteran's Sign Unveiling/Ribbon Cutting at Veteran's Walk Park @ 4:30 p.m.

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

Thursday, November 14th, 2024: Planning Commission Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. at City Hall

Monday, November 18th, 2024: City Council Meeting @ 7:00 p.m. at City Hall

Wednesday, November 20th, 2024: DDA Meeting @ 2:00 p.m. at City Hall (moved to a week earlier due to the Thanksgiving Holiday)

Saturday, November 30th, 2024: Light Night Christmas Tree Lighting at Beery Field @ 6:00 p.m. (Final night to submit passports for the drawing)

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

City Hall Hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.