



City of the Village of Douglas Administration Report Week of January 6th, 2025

Affordable/Attainable Housing Update: On Monday, January 6, 2025, the Douglas City Council took a significant step toward addressing the community's housing needs by unanimously approving the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the development of affordable and attainable housing on the city-owned 17-acre property located on Wiley Road.

This initiative reflects the City's commitment to providing housing solutions for year-round residents, ensuring diverse and affordable options that strengthen the fabric of our community.

The City of Douglas is partnering with Ryan Kilpatrick, CEO of Flywheel Companies, who will assist in drafting the RFP and collaborating closely with the City to bring this project to life. This is an exciting opportunity to create housing that aligns with the City's vision and addresses critical local needs.

Stay tuned for updates as we continue to move forward with this transformative project!

Please Don't Feed the Deer: Did you know that feeding deer is strictly prohibited under Michigan state law? Feeding deer, whether intentionally or unintentionally, can result in fines issued by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) if reported. However, beyond the legal implications, feeding deer poses serious risks to both the animals and our community.

While it might seem harmless or even compassionate to feed deer, doing so disrupts their natural feeding habits and encourages them to depend on human-provided food. This dependence can lead to an overpopulation of deer in residential areas, which brings them closer to homes, gardens, and yards, resulting in damaged landscaping and increased nuisance complaints.

Additionally, feeding deer increases the likelihood of vehicle collisions, as deer are drawn to areas with higher human activity. More importantly, it can contribute to the spread of diseases like Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), a fatal condition that impacts deer populations. Concentrating deer around feeding areas facilitates the transmission of such diseases, endangering wildlife and potentially impacting the larger ecosystem.

As a community, it's essential to respect wildlife and maintain a safe balance between nature and residential life. Please refrain from feeding deer and report any violations to the MDNR. Together, we can protect our environment, wildlife, and neighborhoods.

Master Plan Update: The City of Douglas extends its gratitude to the Douglas Planning Commission and Planning and Zoning Director Sean Homyen for their dedication and effort in developing the new Master Plan draft. The Planning Commission voted in December to recommend the distribution of the draft, marking an important milestone in the process.

On January 6, 2025, the Douglas City Council approved the public distribution of the draft plan, moving the City closer to finalizing this important document. The next steps include notifying relevant agencies, publishing the draft on the City's website, and holding a public hearing on February 20, 2025. Following the public hearing, the plan will return to the City Council on March 3, 2025, for final adoption.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the Planning Commission members for their time and commitment to this critical project:

- Paul Buszka, Chair
- Louise Pattison, Vice-Chair
- Neal Seabert
- Patty Hanson
- Kelli Heneghan
- John O'Malley
- Laura Peterson
- Matt Balmer
- Thomas Hickey

Your hard work and collaboration are instrumental in shaping the future of our community. Thank you for your service and dedication to Douglas!

DDA 2024 Informational & Annual Report: The DDA presented their report at the meeting in December, and again to the City Council on January 6th, 2025. If you would like to access the report, please use the following link. You won't be disappointed to see what has been accomplished and the plans for the next fiscal year and beyond.

<https://douglasmi.gov/dda/> (and click on "DDA Informational Update and Annual Report 2024" on the page)

Tri-Community Wildlife Deer Survey: In response to concerns/complaints regarding the deer population, the City of Douglas, City of Saugatuck, and Saugatuck Township created the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee. The City of Douglas is requesting your help to provide input regarding deer within the City of Douglas.

City staff are seeking your assistance to document your thoughts, knowledge, and opinion of deer in the city. Our objective is to make the survey as simple as possible by providing an online link for you to complete. For those unable to complete the online survey, please stop in City Hall for a printed copy.

The Deer Survey results will be presented to the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee in February for review and discussion.

· Digital option - Complete the survey online at <https://forms.office.com/r/jSZTeUQgi5>

· Paper option – Pick up at:

City Hall - 86 W Center St., Douglas, MI 49406

Please submit/return by January 31, 2025.

REMINDER City Council Meeting Time Change: Starting in January 2025, the Douglas City Council will be changing their meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is not temporary and will be a permanent change.

REMINDER The Douglas Downtown Development Authority Shop & Dine Passport Program EXTENDED: Now through January 31st!

There are THREE, yes 3...chances to win a gift card package that has FIVE gift cards for local businesses available in each. There's more!

We want to also extend our heartfelt thanks to our friends at **UPSCALE MERCANTILE** who donated, yes, donated, TWO gift cards that have also been added to this amazing shop and dine experience!

We won't reveal the breakdown of the gift card packages until the February drawing, but we want to give you a little teaser of who is participating. But first, make sure to grab your passport from city hall or a participating business (marked with an asterisk), have it stamped FIVE times and turn it in by January 31st to City Hall or one of the participating businesses for a chance to win one of these amazing prize packages. Soup Stroll Saturday from 12:30-5 pm in downtown Douglas on January 11th, is a wonderful time to get stamped!

Water Street Gallery ** limited hours

Mr. Miller's Art Emporium **

Ruth Crowe Artist Studio **

Lakeshore Pet Boutique **

Happystance Dinette **

Borrowed Time

Now and Then **

Everyday People Cafe **

Wild Dog Grille

Brackett and Company ** limited hours
Button Street Gallery
Back Alley Pizza Joint
Ox-Bow House **
Upscale Mercantile

Soup! Soup! Soup! Try some soup while you shop! Saturday Soup Stroll in Douglas! Come and warm up in Douglas on January 11th from 12:30-5:00 p.m. (Some businesses may start at 12:00 p.m.)

The Participating businesses in the 1st annual Saturday Soup Stroll in Douglas are:

- Ox-Bow House
- Ruth Crowe Artist Studio
- J. Petter Galleries
- Back Alley Pizza Joint
- The Wild Dog
- Mr. Miller's Art Emporium
- Lakeshore Pet Boutique
- Wild Dog
- Now and Then
- Isabel's Market & Eatery

REMINDER Christmas Tree Disposal: The Department of Public Works does not pick up Christmas Trees at curbside but does offer an alternative. During the month of January Douglas residents may drop off their live cut Christmas Tree at Schultz Park across from the dog park. Please remove all lights, ornaments, decorations, and the tree stand.

415 Wiley Road Groundbreaking Ceremony:

When: Tuesday, January 21st, 2025
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Location: 415 Wiley Road

Light snacks, hot chocolate, and coffee will be provided. The event will take place outdoors, so please dress warmly! We look forward to seeing everyone!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Saturday, January 11th, 2025: Soup Stroll in Douglas from 12:30-5:00 p.m. (some businesses may start at 12:00 p.m.)

Monday, January 20th, 2025: City offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025: 415 Wiley Groundbreaking Ceremony at 5:00 p.m.
Everyone is welcome to attend!

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025: Douglas City Council Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025: Douglas Downtown Development Authority Meeting @ 2:00 p.m. at 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

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