



City of the Village of Douglas Administration Report Week of February 3rd, 2025

415 Wiley Road Space for Rent: The former doctor's space on the back side of the building is available for rent. Please contact Bernie Merkle and Coldwell Banker if you are interested!

415 Wiley Road Build-Out: We are excited to announce that the work on the building where the city will be locating City Hall and the Police Department in late 2025, will begin on February 17th!

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee-Quarterly Report to the Public:

November 2024 - February 2025: Since forming in November 2024, the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee has made significant strides in addressing local wildlife concerns, particularly the overpopulation of deer in Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck. Our mission is to discover appropriate ways to maintain a healthy balance in wildlife populations and provide recommendations to our local governments.

To guide our efforts, we elected Neal Seabert from Douglas as Chair, Keith Walker from Saugatuck as Vice-Chair, and Tammy Cunnion from Douglas as Secretary. One of our first steps was to engage the community by outlining our goals in a letter published in the *Commercial Record* in December 2024. Additionally, we launched a community-wide deer survey that was open from December 2024 through January 31, 2025. We received over 800 responses, which will be instrumental in shaping our approach to deer population management. The results of this survey will be reviewed in detail at our March 5, 2025, meeting, where we will identify immediate actions and long-term strategies.

Our committee is exploring several options to address deer overpopulation, including potential culling efforts, reviewing local ordinances for necessary changes, and increasing public education on the importance of not feeding deer.

Additionally, the committee explored the possibility of deer contraception. However, this option is not viable for several reasons.

Implementing such a program would require a grant, extensive applications, and significant funding to create an experimental research study that would take years to

implement. Given these challenges, the committee has ruled out deer contraception as a feasible approach. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) does not recommend it as a solution, and it is not federally approved.

Another growing concern for our region is the potential spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). CWD is a fatal neurological disease that affects deer, elk, and moose, causing severe weight loss, behavioral changes, and eventual death. The disease spreads through direct contact between animals and through contaminated environments, making it a significant threat to deer populations and ecosystem health. The current presence of CWD in Michigan underscores the importance of proactive deer management to reduce population densities and minimize the risk of transmission. The committee will continue monitoring CWD developments and work closely with the MDNR to ensure best practices for disease prevention.

We are also collaborating with Chief Greg Janik and the Saugatuck Township District Fire Department to conduct a drone survey in March 2025, under the guidance of the MDNR. This survey will systematically capture photographic coverage of designated areas, allowing for an accurate post-survey deer count. By conducting these surveys annually, we aim to establish reliable population trends, helping us understand deer movement patterns, density, and overall impact on our communities and ecosystems.

The Tri-Community Wildlife Committee meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM at Douglas City Hall, 86 W. Center Street, Douglas, Michigan. Meetings are also accessible via Zoom for those unable to attend in person. We encourage all community members to stay informed and engaged by visiting the City of Douglas website under the Meetings and Agendas link and selecting the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee or by contacting your local government agency directly.

We appreciate your continued support and involvement as we work together to find responsible and sustainable solutions for managing our local wildlife. Your input and participation are invaluable as we strive to protect the balance between our communities and the natural environment.

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee Members

Neal Seabert, Chair, City of Douglas
Keith Walker, Vice-Chair, City of Saugatuck
Tammy Cunnion, Secretary, City of Douglas
Stacey Aldrich, Saugatuck Township
Scott Dean, City of Saugatuck
David Ignasiak, City of Saugatuck
Beth Ramsson, Saugatuck Township
Tony Schippa, Saugatuck Township
Timothy Smith, City of Douglas

Know the signs: Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease that affects cervids (deer, elk, moose, and other related animals). It is caused by misfolded proteins called prions, which accumulate in the brain and other tissues, eventually causing severe damage.

Signs and symptoms:

- **Weight loss:** Animals with CWD often experience gradual but significant loss of body weight, even if they have access to food. This is the “wasting” aspect of the disease.
- **Behavioral changes:** Infected animals may exhibit unusual or sluggish behavior, such as:
 - Loss of fear of humans
 - Drooping head and ears
 - Walking in set patterns
 - Nervousness
 - Loss of coordination
 - Isolation from the herd
- **Physical changes:** Other physical signs of CWD can include:
 - Excessive drooling
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - Rough, dull coat
 - Excessive thirst and urination
 - Teeth grinding
 - Diminished tone of facial muscles
 - Severe emaciation and dehydration in the later stages
 - Inability to stand

Important points:

- CWD symptoms can take months or even years to develop, and the disease is always fatal.
- Some of these symptoms can also be caused by other diseases or conditions, so it is important to consult with a veterinarian or wildlife official for proper diagnosis.
- There is no known cure for CWD.

Additional Resources:

- Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance: <https://cwd-info.org/>
- National Park Service: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1103/cwd.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/chronic-wasting/animals/index.html>

Short-Term Rentals: If you have a short-term rental, and you have not registered with the City of Douglas or had an inspection completed by the fire department, you could be in violation of the city ordinance and fire code. Please make sure to contact City Hall if

you need to register or the fire department (numbers are listed below) if you need an inspection or have any questions. Both are required.

Fire Hydrants, “Keep them Clear”: If you are able, please help us by clearing at least 3 feet of space around a fire hydrant located near you when we have snow events. Let’s look out for one another’s safety. Thank you in advance!

Winner! Winner! The City of Douglas Downtown Development Authority would like to thank the businesses who participated in the most recent Shop & Dine Passport Program:

Back Alley Pizza Joint; Borrowed Time; Brackett & Company; Button Gallery; Everyday People Café; Happystance; 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; and Upscale Mercantile

We also want to congratulate the 3 winners of the gift card packages: Susan Brooks; Christine Metzger; and Mari Martin! Thank you for supporting local!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Pre-Bowl Tailgate Stroll: Saturday, February 8th, 2025: Noon-5:00 p.m. Downtown Douglas

Thursday, February 13th, 2025: Planning Commission Meeting 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

Monday, February 17th, 2025: City offices are closed in Observance of President’s Day

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025: City Council Meeting (changed due to President’s Day on Monday the 17th) 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025: Douglas DDA 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.



**DOWNTOWN
DOUGLAS
PRE-BOWL
TAILGATE STROLL**

**JOIN THE DOUGLAS PRE-BOWL
TAILGATE STROLL AND ENJOY
TAILGATE THEMED SNACKS AT
PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS!**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH, 2025



NOON-5:00 P.M.



PARTICIPATING LOCATIONS:

NOW AND THEN: MEATBALLS W/ED'S SPECIAL SAUCE

RUTH CROW ARTIST STUDIO: CHIPS & QUESO

**THE OX-BOW HOUSE: MEATBALLS & VEGGIE
MEATBALLS**

MR. MILLER'S ART EMPORIUM: 7 LAYER DIP

LAKESHORE PET BOUTIQUE: PANCAKES FOR DOGS