



CITY OF DOUGLAS NEWSLETTER

Holiday 2010

Volume 6, Edition 5

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

The City of Douglas council, boards, committees and office staff wish you peace and joy during this holiday season.

GENEROUS HEARTS

The City Hall staff, council members, police and department of public works employees will once again show their generosity by filling holiday wishes for two needy local families. Christian Neighbors provides information on the families along with their wish lists. There will be a collection box under our Christmas tree in City Hall for contributions of toys, games, clothing and non-perishable food items.

If you would like to help these families please stop in at City Hall to leave your donation. Gifts of money are always appreciated. Christian Neighbors accepts donations all year at St. Peters Church, 163 St. Peters Drive, Douglas.

At the annual employee Holiday potluck, gifts will be exchanged, opened and donated to Toys for Tots. Staff drew names of a fellow employee and was instructed to purchase a toy or game that reminded us of that individual whose name was drawn. The gifts will be opened at the potluck and donated to Toys for Tots.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

Douglas City offices will be closed on December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st.

Thank You.....to all who participated in the 1st Annual Douglas vs. Saugatuck Food Fight! Douglas gathered over 1,100 food items to win the challenge! The pantry shelves at Christian Neighbors are now stocked to benefit needy local families. A special thank you to DeMond's Super Valu for their participation!

Another round of thanks goes to all who contributed returnable cans and bottles or made cash donations to help keep a family warm this winter. The response was overwhelming. A furnace was purchased, at cost, and installed (with no labor charge) by Keag's Heating and Cooling.

HOURS AND SCHEDULES

CITY HALL (269) 857-1438
Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

COUNCIL MEETINGS
First and third Mondays 7:00pm

PLANNING COMMISSION
Second Wednesday 7:00pm

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Fourth Tuesday 7:00pm (As needed)

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Second Tuesday 6:00pm

All City meetings are held in Dutcher Lodge City Hall unless otherwise noticed.

City Manager William LeFevere

City Clerk Jean Neve

City Treasurer Bob Drexler

City Assessor Kelley Ziesemer By Appointment Tuesdays 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Community/Economic Development Director
By Appointment Ryan Kilpatrick

Police Department Chief Ken Giles
47 W. Center Street Douglas
(269)857-4339
Dial 911 after hours to speak to an officer.

Department of Public Works Director
(269)857-2763 Max Rodgers

Building Permits 1 800 626-5964
Michigan Township Services
111 Grand Street
Allegan MI 49010

E-Mail Addresses for City Staff

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douglas@ci.douglas.mi.us

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Community/Economic Development Director Ryan Kilpatrick
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Treasurer Robert (Bob) Drexler
rdrexler@ci.douglas.mi.us

Assessor Kelley Ziesemer
kziesemer@ci.douglas.mi.us

Department of Public Works Director Max Rodgers
mrodgers@ci.douglas.mi.us

Police Department Chief Ken Giles
chiefgiles@sdpd.us



Did You Know???

You may look up tax and assessing information on the City website. Log into: www.ci.douglas.mi.us then click on "Services", "Tax & Assessing" and "Property Tax & Assessing Information". The city zoning ordinance, code of ordinances and much more may also be found by logging into the city website.

The City of Douglas now offers the convenience of accepting credit cards for municipal payments. A third-party convenience fee will apply to cardholders who wish to pay via credit card.

Property characteristics and assessment sales data is available on the City website for your review to confirm our data is accurate.



Are Fire and Emergency Vehicles Able to Find You?

Section 505 of the International Fire Code states that every new and existing building shall have approved address numbers, building numbers or approved building identification placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. Numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches high with a minimum stroke width of 1 / 2 inch. Every second counts in an emergency. Make sure your home is properly identified.

ADOPT A FIRE HYDRANT!

Please assign someone in your household or neighborhood with the responsibility of keeping fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow.



BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

City Council

Lisa Greenwood
Greg Harvath
Martha Hoexter, Mayor Pro Tem
Jane Mayer
Eric Smith
Renee Waddell, Mayor
Jim Wiley

Planning Commission

David Burdick
Ron Dellartino
Candace Dugan
Mike Hurley
Paul Marineau
Christopher Nern, Chair
Alexa Urquhart

Zoning Board of Appeals

Jeff Greenwood
Kenneth Kutzel
Tarue Pullen
Bill Schumacher, Chair
Alexa Urquhart

DDA

Nancy Ayers
Helen DeGeatano
Michael Haddock
Mike Hurley
Sam Kendall
Kim Kubiak
Erin Molenhouse
Bill Schumacher, Chair
Renee Waddell

Assessment Board of Review

Linda Anderson
Maria Droz
Paul Marineau

Recycle Your Christmas Tree!

Bring your used Christmas tree to the designated area at Schultz Park from December 26th to January 15th for recycling. Happy Holidays!





ELECTION NEWS

Every year voters in the City of Douglas have the opportunity to vote for positions on the city council. In November voters elected Jane Mayer, Jim Wiley, Eric Smith and Lisa Greenwood to serve a 2 year term on City Council.

Jane Mayer, 443 Amity, was welcomed back to council having been elected to the first City Council in 2004. Jane will serve as the Douglas representative to the Tri-Community Joint Planning Commission.

Newcomer Jim Wiley, 301 Union, was elected to his first term. Jim is a local business owner and will continue to serve as Douglas' representative on the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority Board.

Lisa Greenwood, 34 Spring, who was appointed to fill an unexpired term returns to council, winning her first election. Lisa will serve on the Kalamazoo Harbor Master Plan Committee.

Eric Smith, 241 Wiley, also was appointed to fill an unexpired term won his seat in his first election. Eric will continue to represent Douglas on the Community Recreation Board.

At the November 15th meeting of City Council, Renee Waddell and Martha Hoexter were unanimously elected to serve another year as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. Congratulations and Welcome!



Leaving for the winter?



If you would like the Police Department to check on your residence while out of town please call the office at (269) 857-4339. Have a safe and healthy winter!

General Tax Information to Remember

The City of Douglas sends out tax statements twice a year. The summer bill is mailed to property owners the first week of July and is payable by September 14th. The winter bill is mailed the first week of December and is payable by February 14th. The summer and winter bills combined cover a calendar year tax obligation. **If you have not received your tax statements by the middle of July and December please call the Treasurer's office for a duplicate copy.**

To qualify for a **Principal Residence Exemption** (P.R.E.) you must own and occupy your residence by May 1st. Your driver's license, voter's registration and federal income tax return must reflect this address. If you have a 100% P.R.E. exemption you are exempt from paying the school operating millage and will see the word "EXEMPT" on that line of the tax bill.

Notices of assessment change are mailed in February. A time to protest assessed value is scheduled every March. This schedule as well as assessment information is found on the assessment change notice. It is the responsibility of each property owner to make sure the assessor has the correct information about the property. All tax and assessing information is on the City website at www.ci.douglas.mi.us Click on "Services", "Tax & Assessing" and "Property Tax & Assessing Information". Kelley Ziesemer, City Assessor, holds office hours each Tuesday from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**CONGRATULATIONS
SAUGATUCK
INDIANS!**

What an accomplishment for the 2010 Saugatuck Indians High School Football Team to win a place in the state final playoff game at Ford Field! Congratulations to Coach Bill Dunn and the team!

**WAY TO GO ORANGE
CRUSH! YOU ARE OUR
CHAMPIONS!**



Here comes 2011.....

The City of Douglas will be a busy place in 2011 with some changes to policies like leaf and brush pick-up and the storage of recreational vehicles.

Construction and repairs on the Blue Star Highway Bridge will begin during the year.

Watch for new "Welcome to Douglas" signage along Blue Star Highway.

The Douglas Dutchers will hold a Vintage Base Ball Basket Factory Festival in August.

Stay informed via this newsletter or our online E-News Service.

Have a safe and prosperous new year!

NEWS FROM CITY HALL.....

We are pleased to present each tax payer with our first annual city calendar. The calendar will be mailed along with your 2010 winter tax statement. We hope you will find the calendar useful and informative. During 2011, if you have any photos of scenes or events taken in Douglas you would like to submit for use in the 2012 calendar please send them in jpeg format to douglas@ci.douglas.mi.us. Place the words "City Calendar" in the subject line.

The City of Douglas is now offering online E-News Service. If you subscribe to this service, you will receive emails with agendas, minutes and other important City information. To sign up for this service, access the website at www.ci.douglas.mi.us. Click on "Reference" and type in your e-mail address in the box provided, then click on the submit button.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

At their November 15th meeting the City Council presented Ms. Cheri Giller with a special proclamation of appreciation in honor of her 30 years of service to the Interurban Transit Authority.

Saugatuck-Douglas Police Chief Ken Giles was also recognized for receiving the 2010 Allegan and Ottawa County Law Enforcement Award. Chief was nominated by Judge Bill Baillargeon who was on hand to present the award. Chief was honored at the annual "Together We Can" awards, which celebrates professionals and volunteers who work against violence.

Congratulations and thank you to both for outstanding service to the community!

DOUGLAS HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Businesses in Douglas are all dressed up for the holidays. Most shops are open late with many offering special sales or serving refreshments. Shop for unique gifts created by local artists on "Sensational Saturdays" on December 4, 11, and 18.

Visit the Old Schoolhouse Holiday Gift Shop for gifts and award winning books filled with Douglas history. The gift shop is open Saturdays and Sundays in December from 1 to 5 p.m. at 130 Center Street.

Don't miss the horse and carriage rides, Fridays and Saturdays, beginning November 26th.

Tour the festively decorated streets and enjoy dining and drink specials in many of the restaurants. Pancake breakfasts continue all year round on the second Sunday of each month at St. Peters Church.

Shop the Holiday Artist's Market at Saugatuck Brewing Company on December 5th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. for unique locally handmade items.

Find a "Toys for Tots" collection barrel at the Saugatuck-Douglas Police Station, 47 W. Center St. Help out local families in need by donating non-perishable food items at Douglas City Hall. All food donations will go to Christian Neighbors West serving Douglas, Saugatuck, Ganges and Glenn.

Bring Christmas to the Animals! The Al-Van Humane Society will have an Open House, December 4th from noon to 2:00 p.m. Give a gift of pet food, blankets, kitty litter, paper towels, bleach or laundry detergent.

Many restaurants, bars and Bed & Breakfast Inns usher in the New Year with festive events followed by a spectacular fireworks display over the harbor at midnight on December 31st.

It's not too early to decide on your costume for the annual Mardi Gras parade on Fat Tuesday, March 8, 2011. Join the fun, food and foolery for a New Orleans style parade through downtown Douglas at 7:00 p.m.