

CITY OF DOUGLAS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010
Volume 6, Edition 2

MEET OUR NEW CITY MANAGER

The City of the Village of Douglas is pleased to welcome Mr. William LeFevere to the position of City Manager. Bill took the reins from outgoing manager Dave Kowal in May. Bill comes to Douglas with over 25 years of management experience in Michigan local and county government. For the last 15 years he was City Manager in Eaton Rapids. Bill has also served as City Manager of Vassar and County Administrator for Clinton County. Stop in to say hello and welcome Bill to the City of Douglas.



Ownership Transferred at Library

On April 6, 2010 the Douglas city council officially transferred ownership of the Saugatuck-Douglas District Library building to the library. The library has leased the building for the last 30 years for \$1. per year. Originally built in 1870 as the Methodist Episcopal Church of Douglas, the building has seen many uses. In 1965, a district library was created to serve Saugatuck Township, plus the then villages of Saugatuck and Douglas. After extensive remodeling the library opened in its current building in 1981. The City of Douglas is extremely pleased and stands to benefit greatly from the continued presence of the Saugatuck-Douglas District Library within our downtown. Library board president Steve Oakley stated "owning the building, instead of leasing it, solidifies our position in town and the area. It allows our development committee to go forward with long-term planning."



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

General e-mail
douglas@ci.douglas.mi.us

Manager William LeFevere
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Clerk Jeanie Neve
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Community/Economic Development
Director Ryan Kilpatrick
rkilpatrick@ci.douglas.mi.us

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.

FOUR CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

Get Involved and Serve Your Community!

Every year voters in the City of Douglas have the opportunity to vote for positions on the city council. This year there will be four council seats up for election. Residents at least 18 years of age and registered to vote in Douglas are eligible to run for office. Persons interested in running for a council seat must submit a nominating petition containing not less than 25 signatures from qualified voters in order to be on the November ballot. **Petitions may be picked up at the City Clerk's office and must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on August 3, 2010.** Please call the City Clerk at 857-1438 if you have questions.

HOLIDAY HOURS

The City of Douglas offices will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day and Monday, September 6th in observance of Labor Day.

2010 CENSUS CONTINUES

Census workers are out knocking on doors to remind citizens to fill out and return those census forms. To date, Michigan has the highest return rate in the country at 77%.

WHERE DOES THE TAX MONEY GO? 2010 Rates Estimated; Subject to Change

	<u>Summer Mills</u>	<u>Winter Mills</u>	<u>Total</u>
State Ed (SET)	6.000	0	
School Operating*	8.4792	8.4792	
School Debt	1.300	1.300	
School Supplement	0	1.04160	
School Recreation	0.23050	0	
Intermediate Schools	5.52340	0	
County Operating	4.65770	0	
Roads	0	0.99980	
Seniors	0	0.23990	
Transit Authority	0	0.48610	
District Library	0	0.48410	
Fire District	0	1.1000	
City Operating	13.0818	0	
TOTAL Non-Homestead	39.2726	14.1307	53.4033
TOTAL 100% PRE	30.7934	5.6515	36.4449

* If your property is 100% Principal Residence Exempt (PRE) you do not pay school operating millage. To calculate tax amounts multiply your Taxable Value by the millage rate and divide by 1,000.

EXAMPLE: \$100,000 taxable value x 36.4449 (100% PRE) divided by 1,000 = \$3644.49 yearly tax obligation.

The summer tax bill is mailed the first week of July and is due by September 14th. The winter tax bill is mailed the first week of December and is due by February 14th.

DOUGLAS EVENTS

Second Sunday Each Month	Pancake Breakfast St. Peters Church
June 19	Dutcher Base Ball Beery Field
July 1, 15, 29	Douglas Social Beery Field
July 17, 24 & 31	Dutcher Base Ball Beery Field
July 4	Fireworks Douglas Harbor
July 10 - 16	Rainbow Family Week
August 14	Dutcher Base Ball Beery Field
August 12 & 26	Douglas Social Beery Field
August 19	Sidewalk Sale Taste of Douglas
September 6	Labor Day Bridge Walk
October 2	Oktoberfest
October 30	Halloween Parade For Adults

You won't want to miss any of these!!

FREE ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

Care for our environment!

**Saturday,
June 5, 2010
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**DeMond's Parking Lot
in Douglas**

**Sponsored by All Saints'
Episcopal Church and
West Michigan Creation Care**

This is a great opportunity to dispose of unwanted office and household electronics and old computer components and accessories.

Televisions require a \$10. donation for safe processing. No refrigerators, air conditioners, dehumidifiers or large appliances.

Last year, this event collected close to 9,000 pounds!

From the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society.....

On Wednesday, May 19th the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Area on it's "11 Most Endangered" Historic Sites in America.

This designation is based on the natural and historical significance of the site as per the "historic" survey first done in 2008 by Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society members and Museum chair, Jim Schmiechen, and a follow-up survey in 2010 by a team of professional historians and archeologists for the SDHS in collaboration with the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance.

The site is an area of about 2000 acres from the Felt Mansion on the north through and including Shorewood at the Saugatuck-Douglas boundary to the south.

10 Reasons to Love Spring in Michigan

1. Wildflowers. Trilliums blanket the forest floor. Apple and cherry tree blossoms make this the most fragrant time of year.
2. Woodland Edibles. Morel mushrooms, wild ramps, leeks and fiddleheads are all delicacies that can be found by foraging through the woodlands.
3. Fishing. Whether you enjoy fly fishing on the rivers and streams, heading out on a charter on the big lake or casting a line for pan fish in an inland lake, you're sure to catch something while spring fishing in Michigan.
4. Wine Tasting. While the more than 60 wineries throughout the state are open year round, spring is the ideal time to visit as this is when the new releases are available for tasting.
5. Bird Watching. Nature centers, sanctuaries and wildlife viewing areas are thriving with opportunities for spring bird watching.
6. Paddling. With thousands of miles of rivers and streams, not to mention the inland and Great Lakes, spring is the perfect time to get out in your canoe or kayak.
7. Peddling. Michigan is home to some of the most scenic biking trails, ranging in distance and level of difficulty. You'll find plenty of opportunities to participate in special events geared toward cyclists.
8. Hiking. From nature centers to city, county and state parks, you'll find countless trails waiting to be explored. In Michigan, you can hike more than 200 miles on the Shore-to-Shore Trail that connects Lake Huron and Lake Michigan.
9. Golfing. Michigan is home to more than 800 golf courses. Many offer reduced special spring rates while there are fewer people (and bugs) and the temperatures are pleasant.
10. Driving. There are a handful of designated scenic routes throughout the state, including the M-119 "Tunnel of Trees" which hugs the coastline of Lake Michigan from Harbor Springs north to Cross Village. Allegan County Heritage Trail travels 122 miles throughout the county, stopping at 28 historic sites including a former POW camp. Some sites even include a high-tech geocaching "scavenger hunt" online at www.geocaching.com
The Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds in Michigan represents 225 member campgrounds with nearly 32,000 campsites.

Enjoy the great outdoors in Michigan!