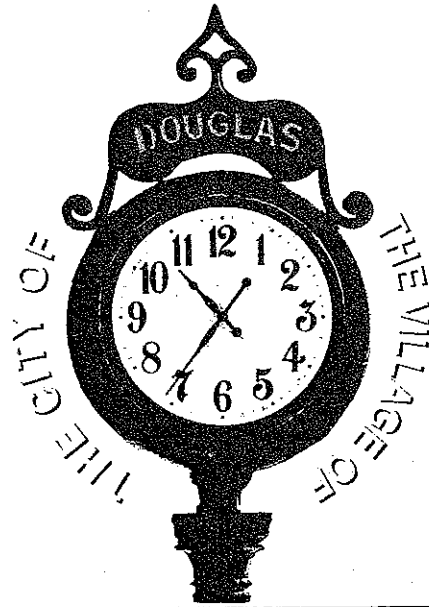


# CITY OF DOUGLAS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2007

Volume 3, Edition 3



## Officer Ken Giles takes the helm as Chief of Police

Thirty year veteran of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department, Ken L. Giles was appointed Chief of Police for the Saugatuck-Douglas Police Department on July 16, 2007.

A lifelong resident of the area Chief Giles has worked for the Saugatuck-Douglas Police as a Patrol Officer since 2003.

City Manager David Kowal recommended the appointment of Chief Giles saying he has been increasingly impressed by Mr. Giles' skills, knowledge and abilities.

Chief Giles related he is dedicated to making the community a safe place to work and live. Citizens can be assured the Police Department will be there to assist in every way possible.

**Congratulations on your  
appointment  
Chief Ken Giles!!**

### Planning/Zoning Administration

Planning and Zoning services are now being provided to the City of Douglas by Michigan Township Services. Ms. Tasha Smalley will have office hours at the City Hall three days a week. Her schedule will be as follows:

Mondays 8:30am-12:30pm

Wednesdays 12:30pm-4:30pm

Thursdays 8:30am-12:30pm

Tasha will assist property owners with general building permit and zoning questions.

Larry Nix of Williams & Works will continue as staff liaison, working with members of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and directing the re-write of the City Zoning Ordinance.

## HOURS AND SCHEDULES

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

**COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
**First and third Mondays 7:00pm**

**PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**First and third Wednesdays 7:00pm**

**ZBA**  
**Fourth Tuesday 7:00p.m.**

**DDA**  
**Second Tuesday 6:00pm**

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

City Manager                      **David Kowal**

City Clerk                              **Jean Neve**

City Treasurer                      **Mark Rett**

City Assessor                      **Kelley Ziesemer**  
**Office Hours: Tuesday 12:30-4:30pm**  
**Or by appointment**

Planning/Zoning  
**Office Hours:**  
**Monday & Thursday 8:30am-12:30pm**  
**Wednesday 12:30-4:30pm**

Police Department                      **Chief Ken Giles**  
**47 W. Center Street**  
**Douglas (269)857-4339**  
**Dial (616) 836-2038 or 911 after hours**  
**to speak to an officer.**

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

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

**Council meeting minutes and agendas are available at the City offices, the Library or on the City website at:**  
**[www.douglasmichigan.com](http://www.douglasmichigan.com)**

### **E-Mail Addresses for City Hall**

**General e-mail**  
**[douglas@douglasmichigan.com](mailto:douglas@douglasmichigan.com)**

**Manager David Kowal**  
**[dkowal@douglasmichigan.com](mailto:dkowal@douglasmichigan.com)**

**Clerk Jean Neve**  
**[jneve@douglasmichigan.com](mailto:jneve@douglasmichigan.com)**

**Zoning Administrator**  
**[zoning@douglasmichigan.com](mailto:zoning@douglasmichigan.com)**

**Treasurer Mark Rett**  
**[mrett@douglasmichigan.com](mailto:mrett@douglasmichigan.com)**

**Assessor Kelley Ziesemer**  
**[assessor@douglasmichigan.com](mailto:assessor@douglasmichigan.com)**

**REMINDER: The Community Emergency Warning Siren will continue to be tested each month on the fourth Friday at 11:00 a.m.**

### **Please Note:**

The Douglas City Offices will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Labor Day - September 3  
Thanksgiving - November 22 & 23





Winter 2007 tax statements will be mailed the first week of December and are due by February 14, 2008.

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

City Council

- Matt Balmer, Mayor
- Diane Bailey
- Martha Hoexter
- Steve Laughner, Mayor Pro Tem
- Robert Moore
- Jane Mayer
- Renee Waddell

Planning Commission

- Alexa Urquhart
- John Piggins, Chair
- David Burdick
- Ron Dellartino
- Renee Waddell
- Karen Van Pelt
- Christopher Nern

Zoning Board of Appeals

- Rich Beebe
- Ronald Colton
- Jeff Greenwood
- Kenneth Kutzel
- Tarue Pullen
- Bill Schumacher, Chair
- Alexa Urquhart

DDA

- Nancy Ayers
- Dan Esterline
- Mary Glinski
- Rob Goeke, Chair
- Tanya Sheridan
- John A. Slater
- John Thomas
- Dick Waskin
- Jeffrey Mead
- Helen DeGeatano
- William Smith

Assessment Board of Review

- Linda Anderson
- Herb Conlon
- Maria Droz

Community Relations

- Alan McPhail
- Carol A. Peterson

**News from the Department of Public Works.....**

**Leaf pick up** will begin again September 10 to December 7, 2007.

**Brush pick up** will continue through November 15, 2007.

**Reminder:** no garbage, pet waste, grass clippings or construction materials. Please put leaves near roadside, not in ditches. No need to bag leaves, just rake into piles.

Brush and branches should be placed in neat piles with cut ends in same direction.

**Household Disposal sites**

Allegan County Health Department provides a site for disposal of household hazardous waste on Tuesdays and Thursdays by appointment only. Call 269 673-5415 to schedule.

Styrofoam, appliances and tires can be taken to Allied Waste Services, 3310 M-40, Hamilton, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon.

Goodwill Stores now accept all computer equipment, usable or not, free of charge. Contact individual outlets for more information. The South Kent County Landfill, at 300 100th Street, Byron Center offers free recycling of residential audio and video equipment, including televisions of any size. Landfill hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays.

Questions? Call Resource Recovery at 269 673-5415.



**ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS...We need your help!**

The Assessing Department has nearly completed its visits to the residential properties in the City. In an effort to confirm our accuracy, we would appreciate your assistance. As many of you know, the properties were inspected from the exterior. If a pink questionnaire was not returned to our office and previous records did not indicate the necessary information, an estimate was made regarding the interior information. If you have access to the internet, the information regarding your property is available on line. Please follow the directions below to verify the characteristics of your property.

Login to the City's website at [www.douglasmichigan.com](http://www.douglasmichigan.com). Click on "Civic Information", "Our City", then "Tax and Assessing Information". This will display the page to navigate for assessment information. On the left side of the page is an option titled "Property and Land Search". Click this to display three options to search for properties in the City. Enter one of the following: address, parcel number or name to display your property on screen. Click on the parcel number next to your name and scroll to the bottom of the General Property Information page. Check "Load Building Information" on this page. Detail information will appear below once this is checked.

Please review the details of your house, most specifically; the size, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, the style, whether or not you have basement finish, air conditioning, fireplaces or a garage. Also available to review is a photo and sketch of the buildings. These may be viewed by clicking on "Additional Pages" in the left column. Then click on "Images/Sketches".

If you find errors, please submit them **in writing** to the Assessor's office. Please include the property address, parcel number, owner name and contact phone number as verification may be necessary.

Please remember that reporting information not presently included on the record **will not** increase your taxable value. It will, however, ensure the accuracy and fairness in determining value for all properties.

If you have any questions, Assessor Kelley Ziesemer is available at the City Hall on Tuesdays between 12:30 and 4:30 p.m. Stop in or call at 857-1438.

## Township Fire Department Receives Equipment Grant



The Saugatuck Township Fire District has received a \$60,221 grant from the Department of Homeland Security to purchase equipment.

An all-terrain vehicle, a new foam firefighting system and 2,000 feet of large diameter hose are coming to the Department.

The all-terrain vehicle will better enable first responders to navigate the lakeshore landscape to protect against fires and fire-related threats along the shoreline communities.

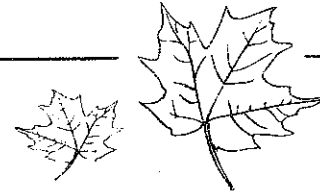
Fire Chief John Blok compared the 2,000 feet of large diameter hose to laying an above ground water main.

Chief Blok related the new equipment will improve the ability to quickly respond to emergencies throughout the area in every season of the year.

## Leaving town for the winter????

The Saugatuck-Douglas Police Department will do property checks for out-of-town owners if you notify the department and fill out a request form before leaving town for the season. Stop in at the Police Department, 47 W. Center Street, Douglas, to request this service.

Police Chief Giles and Fire Chief Blok would like to remind homeowners of the importance of having clearly visible house numbers on your residence.



## Reconstruction of Water and Center Street Intersection to Commence

Roadway reconstruction of the intersection of Water and Center Streets, adjacent to the entrance to Wade's Bayou Park, is scheduled to commence shortly after Labor Day. Identified for years as a safety impediment for vehicular traffic and pedestrians alike, the proposed reconstruction has long been a capital improvement goal of the City. There have been many "close calls", for which those that live and work in the area can attest. However, lack of a viable funding source has prevented the City from taking action in the past.

In the spring of 2005, the City authorized an engineering study to find the best solution to this problem. Later that year, a final report was issued that identified four potential solutions to the identified problems. The City selected the most cost effective solution that met all needs, safety and otherwise, of the community. The solution calls for lowering Water Street roadway pavement to eliminate the necessity for a guardrail and the creation of a four-way stop at the newly formed Water/Center intersection. This solution allows pedestrians and vehicles alike to access the park and shops with minimal conflict. In addition to enhanced vehicular and pedestrian safety, an added benefit will be a much improved view of the Kalamazoo River from the downtown area - further improving its vitality and appeal.

In the spring of 2006, the City made application for grant funding from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for fiscal year 2007 Safety Funding. MDOT awarded approximately 65% of the project costs, or approximately \$180,000 to the City from the highly sought after Safety Funds.

Construction will begin shortly after Labor Day and, barring any unforeseen field problems that may be encountered after construction begins, conclude in late fall. The proposed construction schedule was intentionally planned to minimize disruption to the community. However, construction-related detours, delays and inconvenience will be inevitable. Thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation. We believe the permanent improvement will be well worth the temporary inconvenience.

**UPCOMING EVENTS  
YOU WON'T WANT TO  
MISS!**

**Dutchers Base Ball**

Beery Field

August 25th, 1:00 p.m.

September 15th, 4:00 p.m.

**Douglas Social**

Beery Field, September 6th

5:30 p.m.

**9th Annual Blue Star Bridge  
Walk and Pancake Breakfast**

September 3rd

**Mt. Baldhead Challenge**

September 15th, 8:30 a.m.

**Oktoberfest**

Beer and brats at Beery Field

October 6th

**Halloween Parade**

Center Street, October 27th

10:00 p.m.

**Did you know?????**

You may look up tax and assessing information on the City website. Log into: [www.douglasmichigan.com](http://www.douglasmichigan.com), then click into the civic information section. On "Our City" page you will see a link to "Tax and Assessing" information.

Recycle bags are available, free of charge, at the City Hall. Homes within the City of Douglas are serviced every other Tuesday. Stop in and pick up bags and a schedule.

You may dispose of used batteries at the City Hall collection canister.

The Mayor of Douglas is available to perform marriage ceremonies.

**CITY COUNCIL POSITIONS  
ON NOVEMBER BALLOT**

Every year voters in the City of Douglas have the opportunity to vote for positions on the city council. This year there will be three council members elected on the November 6th ballot. Candidate nominating petitions have been filed by Greg Harvath and incumbents Martha Hoexter and Renee Waddell.

The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm on November 6th.

**VOTE NOVEMBER 6TH**



**AWARD WINNING PAINTING**

At the July 16th meeting of the Douglas City Council, Cathy Moore, President of the Saugatuck Douglas Art Club, presented the City with an award winning oil painting. Waterford Michigan artist, Terry Nagel, captured the 2007 Waterfront Invitational Art Fair award with his oil painting of a fishing tug in the Naubinway (Upper Peninsula) harbor. The tug reminds us of the very kind that was once used in the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor.

If you haven't had a chance to see it, drop by City Hall. The painting is a wonderful addition to the art collection that graces the walls of the city council meeting room.



### **HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS**

Children's Trick-or-treating will take place in the City of Douglas on Wednesday, October 31st from 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. The annual Adult Parade begins at 10:00 p.m.

Dangers on Halloween night are not from witches or spirits but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Both children and adults need to think about safety on this annual day of make-believe.

- Motorists** Watch for children darting out from between parked cars. Be alert for children walking on roadways, driveways, and curbs.
- Parents** Make sure children younger than 12 are supervised by an adult. Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home. Plan a route and establish a return time. Tell your youngsters not to eat any treats until they return home.
- Costumes** Make sure costumes are fire-retardant, don't create a tripping hazard, have some reflective tape on dark colors, and don't obstruct the child's vision. Carrying a flashlight is a good idea to help the children see and be seen more clearly.
- Treats** Insist that treats be brought home for inspection. Wash fruit and slice into small pieces. When in doubt, throw it out.

**HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE HALLOWEEN!**



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**City of the Village of Douglas**  
86 W. Center St.  
Douglas MI 49406-0757  
phone: 269 857-1438  
fax: 269 857-4751  
[www.douglas-michigan.com](http://www.douglas-michigan.com)  
[douglas@douglas-michigan.com](mailto:douglas@douglas-michigan.com)