

CITY OF DOUGLAS NEWSLETTER

Summer 2008
Volume 4, Edition 2

McKean Sculpture Added to Douglas Beach

The "Sea Gulls" sculpture, by Cynthia McKean, was recently installed at Douglas Beach. The sculpture, funded through donations raised by the Chamber Music Festival Society, was donated in memory of the late arts supporter Priscilla Mueller.



An interior light accents the "Sea Gulls" from dusk to dawn. Douglas City Council members enthusiastically accepted the sculpture at their February 4th meeting. The 10-foot high steel sculpture was dedicated, after installation, in May.

You Won't Want To Miss These Fun-filled Summer Events!

Pancake Breakfasts 9a.m.-1p.m.
2nd Sunday of each month - St. Peters
Church in Douglas

July 10, 24 **Douglas Socials**
Aug. 7, 21 at Beery Field
Sept. 4 5:30 p.m.

Douglas Dutchers Base Ball
Beery Field, May to September
(See schedule inside this newsletter)

July 4th **Fireworks over**
the Harbor at dark

July 26th **Venetian Festival**
Boat Parade
Fireworks at dark

Aug. 21st **Sidewalk Sales and**
Taste of Douglas

Aug. 30th **Friends of Library**
Book Sale

Sept. 1st-10th **Annual Blue**
Star Bridge Walk
and Pancake
Breakfast

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

• Independence Day - Friday, July 4th
• Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 1st
•

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 (Starting June 11)

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
Fourth Tuesday 7:00p.m.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
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 Bob Drexler

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

Planning/Zoning Ryan Kilpatrick
Office Hours:
Tuesdays 8:00am - 4:30 pm
Thursdays 8:00am - 4:30 pm

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

E-Mail Addresses for City Hall

General e-mail
douglas@douglasmichigan.com

Manager David Kowal
dkowal@douglasmichigan.com

Clerk Jean Neve
jneve@douglasmichigan.com

Zoning Consultant Ryan Kilpatrick
rkilpatrick@douglasmichigan.com

Treasurer Robert (Bob) Drexler
rdrexler@douglasmichigan.com

Assessor Kelley Ziesemer
assessor@douglasmichigan.com

Did you know?????

You may look up tax and assessing information on the City website. Log into: www.douglasmichigan.com, then click into the civic information section. On "Our City" page you will see a link to "Tax and Assessing" information. City Council meeting minutes, agendas and financial statements are available at the City offices, the Library, or on the City website.

The City of Douglas Code of Ordinance is now online at: www.amlegal.com/douglas_mi/

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

The City Clerk's Office provides notary services to residents free of charge. A notary is actually witnessing your signature on a document, and not verifying the accurateness of the document.

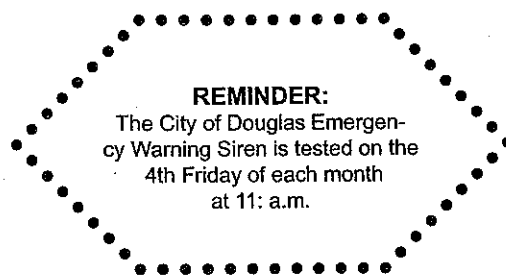
**Four City Council Positions
on November Ballot**

Every year voters in the City of Douglas have the opportunity to vote for positions on the city council. This year there will be 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 4:30 p.m. on August 5, 2008.

Please call the City Clerk at 857-1438 if you have questions.



Douglas Dutchers Base Ball Schedule

May 17th 2:00 p.m.	Inter-League Beery Field
May 31st 2:00 p.m.	Inter-League Beery Field
June 7 & 8	Upper Sandusky Festival 9 a.m -8:00 p.m. Ohio
June 21st 2:00 p.m.	Bonneyville Millers Beery Field
June 28th 2:00 p.m.	Huntington Hill Toppers Huntington, Indiana
July 13th 1:00 p.m.	Portage Iron Diamonds Winona Lake Blue Laws Beery Field
July 19th 1:00 p.m.	Kent Base Ball Club Huntington Hill Toppers Beery Field
July 27th 2:00 p.m.	House of David Echos Beery Field
Aug. 3rd 2:00 p.m.	South Haven Exhibiton Ratcliffe Field South Haven
Aug. 9th	Coopersville Festival 10 a.m.-5:00 p.m Coopersville, MI
Aug. 16th 2:00 p.m.	Bonneyville Millers Goshen, Indiana
Aug. 30th 2:00 p.m.	Fallasburg Cubs Fallasburg, Lowell, MI
Sept. 13th 4:00 p.m.	Heritage Festival Ludingtn Mariners Beery Field

FOOD PANTRY / FOOD RESOURCES

The Christian Neighbors West of Allegan County serve the needs of people in Douglas, Fennville, Glenn, Pullman, and Saugatuck.

Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 163 St. Peters Drive in Douglas. Phone (269) 857-1050 for more information.

MEET OUR NEW TREASURER

The City of Douglas is pleased to welcome Robert Drexler to the position of City Treasurer.

Robert (Bob) resided in Dryden, in the thumb area of Michigan, until attending and graduating from Hope College. Bob earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in accounting.

Bob will have full-time office hours at City Hall Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Stop in and welcome him to the City of Douglas.

Leaf and Brush Pick Up Schedule

LEAF PICK UP

April 1 to May 31

Oct. 1 to Nov. 30

Deposit leaves roadside in large piles, not in ditches. No garbage, pet waste, bricks, sticks, grass clippings or construction materials. Please place leaves in piles separate from brush.

BRUSH PICK UP

April 1 to Nov. 30

Deposit brush neatly on roadside, not in ditches. Please place cut ends in one direction. No tree limbs larger than 6-inches in diameter or tree stumps. Please place brush in piles separate from leaves.

Disposal of grass clippings:

Chef Container will supply customers with a curb cart/dumpster. These carts are used for grass clippings and small amounts of brush. The cost of the cart is \$133.50 for the season (April-November). Residents may call Chef Container at (616) 494-0561.

Residents utilizing a professional landscaping company should require material disposal as part of the contracted services.

Allegan Resource Recovery offers the following monitored sites to dispose of large bulk trash items.

Appliances (two per year per household) and tires (four car or one tractor/semi truck per year) can be taken to the monitored site at Allied Waste in Hamilton, which is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Residents must present their Resource Recovery Cards, which are punched once for each item. Allied does not accept other bulk trash items, however people may contact their regular garbage companies, which may pick up bulk trash for an extra fee.

The closest landfill disposal location is the Autumn Hills landfill, near Zeeland in Ottawa County, 700 56th Ave., Zeeland. Phone (616) 688-5777.

CONCERNED ABOUT DOUGLAS PLANNING AND ZONING ISSUES?

The City of Douglas is accepting applications to serve on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. Responsibilities include: reviewing site plans for special use, site condominium, planned unit development and subdivision requests to determine compliance with local and state ordinances; recommending zoning ordinances and amendments; and reviewing, drafting and adopting a comprehensive plan for Douglas. ZBA members meet at regularly scheduled meetings once a month while Planning Commission members meet twice a month. Availability, commitment year-round, and training session attendance is required. Send a letter describing your interest or stop in City Hall for an application.

EMERALD ASH BORER

What it is and how it can be controlled.....

The Emerald Ash Borer is an exotic wood boring beetle believed to have arrived in Michigan on wood packing material from Asia 10-15 years ago. The beetle attacks only ash trees and is capable of killing trees of all sizes, including trees that appear to be healthy.

Adult beetles emerge from ash trees in May-June leaving D-shaped exit holes in the bark. Larvae tunnel into bark from May-August and spend the winter under the bark. Tree tops begin to "thin out" while sucker growth begins at base and along trunk.

Several insecticide products are available to homeowners for control of the emerald ash borer. Treatments are recommended every year. Insecticide products available for home use are Bayer Advanced Garden Tree and Shrub Insect Control, Bonide Systemic Insecticide Bullets and ACECAP 97. Each of these products have been evaluated in Michigan State University Extension Services research testing.

If you choose to remove your tree, hire a reliable, insured, licensed arborist tree company. The wood does not have to go to waste. There are several ways to recover the value in this resource and put the wood to good use around your home. Milling is especially suited to ash trees because the borer insect does not damage the interior portion of the wood. Trees may be milled to become landscape timbers or chips. You may also use the wood for firewood but it should not be transported to another location.

For more information, contact: Toll-Free Michigan Emerald Ash Borer Hotline at 1 866 325-0023 or visit the following website: www.emeraldashborer.info

Please
be considerate of others
by cleaning up after your dog.
When walking your pet, bring along a
plastic bag to pick up the waste.

2008 Summer Tax Statements will be mailed the first week of July. Payment is due without penalty by September 15, 2008. If you have not received a statement by July 15th please call the Treasurer's office at 857-1438.

Applications for deferment of summer taxes are available at the City Treasurer's office. Payment of summer taxes may be deferred until February 16, 2009 without penalty or interest charges if gross household income for the preceeding calendar year did not exceed \$40,000. Contact City Treasurer Bob Drexler for the application form that must be filed before September 15th.

Winter statements are mailed by December 1st and are payable by February 16, 2009.

**BOARDS, COMMISSIONS
AND COMMITTEES**

City Council

Matt Balmer, Mayor
Diane Bailey
Martha Hoexter
Greg Harvath
Robert Moore
Jane Mayer
Renee Waddell, Mayor Pro Tem

Planning Commission

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

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

DDA

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

Assessment Board of Review

Linda Anderson
Herb Conlon
Maria Droz

Community Relations

Alan McPhail
Carol A. Peterson

**WHERE DOES THE TAX MONEY GO?
2008 Rates Estimated; Subject to Change**

	<u>Summer Mills</u>	<u>Winter Mills</u>
State Ed (SET)	6.000	0
School Operating*	8.34130	
School Debt	1.3000	1.3000
School Supplemental	0.65870	
School Bldg/Site	0.453100	0.453100
School Recreation	0.232500	0
County Operating	4.657700	0
Roads	0	0.999800
Seniors	0	0.239900
Intermediate School	5.52340	0
Transit Authority	0	0.500000
District Library	0	0.488200
Fire District	0	1.293200
City Operating	11.200400	0
Roads	1.88140	0
TOTAL	40.2485	14.2742


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

BOAT LAUNCH FEES

Boat launch fees are \$7.00 daily at Schultz Park and Union Street. A daily envelope system is in place at both ramps. Seasonal passes for the Union Street launch are available for \$50 or free of charge to all City of Douglas taxpayers.

City of the Village of Douglas
86 W. Center St.
Douglas MI 49406-0757
phone: 269 857-1438
fax: 269 857-4751
www.douglasmichigan.com
douglas@douglasmichigan.com

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DOUGLAS MI



A
new and improved
City of Douglas website
is in the development stages.
Watch for a "user friendly"
updated site!

Douglas Remains Committed to Recycling

Personal media players and data assistants, laptops, notebooks, computers, televisions, cell phones and the list goes on and on. These wonders of modern technology are filling our lives and our garbage cans. Many of these products are still usable, others have reached the end of their useful lives. All have components that may be reusable, recyclable or a concern if released into the environment. Many of these items may still be of value to someone else. There are several collection programs available to Michigan residents. Dell Computer Recycling Program will pick up and recycle unwanted Dell-branded computer equipment for free. Log onto the Dell Computer website, fill out a short form, package your equipment and use the waybill that is provided. Goodwill locations across Michigan have also started accepting computers and related equipment from residents at no charge.

Call2Recycle.com is a website that provides information about where you can drop off old cell phones. Costco, Office Depot and Staples all have a trade-in, takeback, or recycle program for computer equipment, televisions, digital cameras, fax machines and various other office equipment.

According to statistics from Allegan Resource Recovery, during 2007 Douglas residents recycled 60 tons of materials. Congratulations!