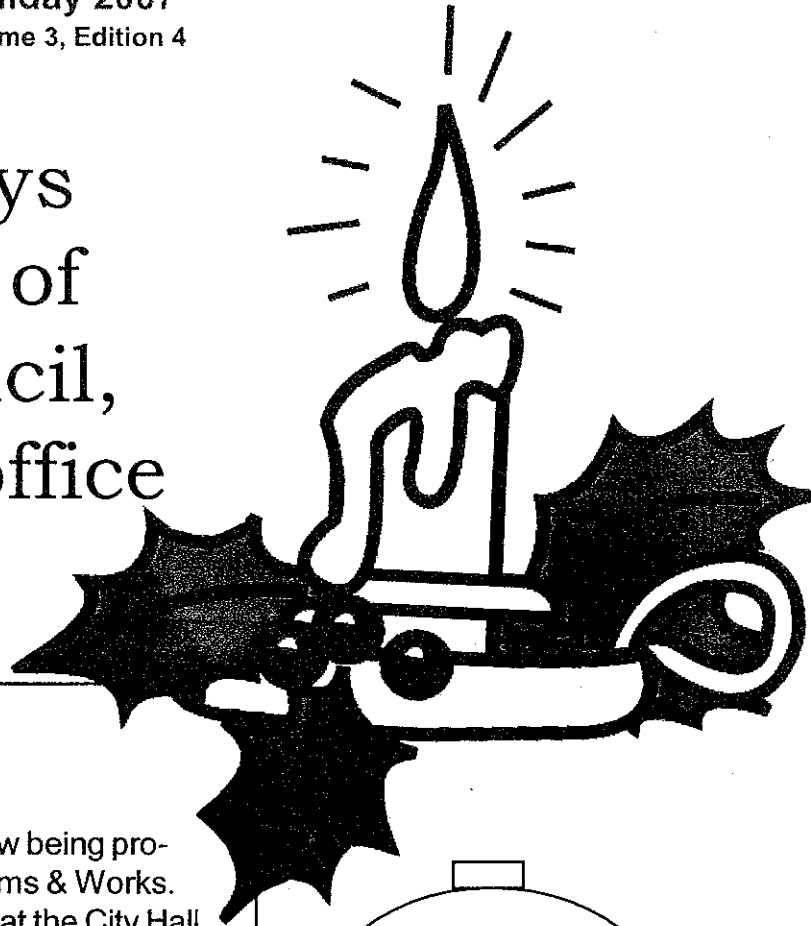


CITY OF DOUGLAS NEWSLETTER

Holiday 2007
Volume 3, Edition 4

Happy Holidays
from the City of
Douglas council,
boards, and office
staff



Planning/Zoning Administration

Planning and Zoning services are now being provided to the City of Douglas by Williams & Works. Ryan Kilpatrick will have office hours at the City Hall two full days per week. His schedule will be as follows:

Tuesdays 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Thursdays 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Ryan is available to assist property owners with general building permit and zoning questions.

Larry Nix 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.

**HOLIDAY
OFFICE HOURS**
The City offices will be
closed December 24th,
25th, 31st and January
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
Third Wednesdays 7:00pm

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 Mark Rett

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

Council meeting minutes and agendas are available at the City offices, the Library or on the City website at:
www.douglasmichigan.com

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 Administrator Ryan Kilpatrick
rkilpatrick@douglasmichigan.com

Treasurer Mark Rett
mrett@douglasmichigan.com

Assessor Kelley Ziesemer
assessor@douglasmichigan.com

2007 Winter tax statements were mailed December 1st and are due by February 14, 2008.

Look for the 2008 recycling schedule with your tax statement. January pick up dates are the 2nd, 15th and 19th.

ADOPT THE NEAREST HYDRANT!

In case of emergency, seconds count! Please assign someone in your household/neighborhood with the responsibility of keeping fire hydrants on or near your property clear of snow.



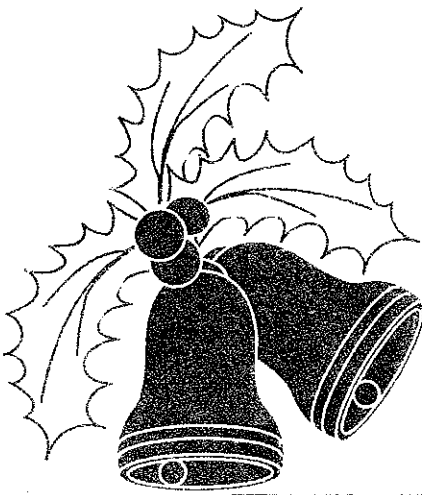
Take Time To Shovel The Public Sidewalks

The City of Douglas clears all public sidewalks of snow. However, students and other pedestrians will appreciate your additional efforts in keeping public sidewalks located adjacent to your property free and clear of snow that may accumulate between City plowings. And don't forget to dig out your refuse receptacles if they are left out in the snow.

Cold Water Is Nice.....But Don't Let It Turn To Ice!

Cold weather brings with it the potential for frozen water service lines and water meters. The following precautions can help reduce the chance of damage and disrupted water service during periods of extreme cold.

- √ Check your home thoroughly to identify and seal all cold air drafts near water pipes, including basement windows, crawl space vents, etc.
- √ Install fire retardant insulation around susceptible pipes and electric heater tape on pipes that are located on the inside of exterior walls which may have only marginal insulation.
- √ If you have an underground lawn sprinkling system, shut off the water supply and properly drain the system.
- √ Allow a faucet to run at a very small but steady stream during and immediately after periods of sub-zero temperatures. The water used is metered and will be billed at the current rate. However, such a measure is a very practical and inexpensive means of temporarily reducing the risk of "freeze up."



CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING

BRING
YOUR USED
CHRISTMAS TREE
TO THE DESIGNATED AREA
AT SCHULTZ PARK FROM DECEMBER
26TH TO JANUARY 15TH FOR RECYCLING.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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
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
Jeffrey Mead
Helen DeGeatano
William Smith

Assessment Board of Review

Linda Anderson
Herb Conlon
Maria Droz

Community Relations

Alan McPhail
Carol A. Peterson

Douglas Remains Committed to Residential Recycling Program and Expanded Environmental Awareness Education

By utilizing the Douglas residential recycling program, residents reduce energy and waste usage, lower pollution, improve air and water quality and strengthen the economy. They are also helping to preserve landfill space and save natural resources for future generations. Congratulations to all participating citizens! The City of Douglas is committed to further expanding its overall environmental awareness education efforts. Please look for exciting new articles in upcoming editions of the Douglas newsletter.

WINTER HOLIDAY TRAVEL TIPS

Chief Giles reminds us to take extra precautions during the winter driving season to get to your Holiday destinations safely. Consider public transportation. Travel during daylight on main roads and don't travel alone. Refuel often, keep your gas tank near full to prevent ice in the fuel lines. If you become stranded, stay with your car where rescuers are most likely to find you. Be prepared with blanket, flashlight, shovel and some snacks. Plan your trip, check the weather and road conditions along your route. Call MDOT at 1 800 381-8477 or log on www.michigan.gov/roadconditions for current weather advisories.

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 happy holiday!

MEET THE NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

In November council member Greg Harvath was elected to serve the citizens of Douglas along with two incumbents. Martha Hoexter and Renee Waddell were re-elected to serve another two years. At their November 19th council meeting Matt Balmer was elected to serve another year as Mayor while Renee Waddell will serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Greg will join Matt, Renee, Martha, Diane Bailey, Jane Mayer and Robert Moore on Council during 2008.

Greg Harvath, 89 S. Washington, has lived in Douglas for 3 years. He is originally from Wisconsin but has lived most of his adult life in the Washington, DC area. Greg has a 20-year background in business and over 15 years in construction and renovation of residential property. Greg and his partner are parents of a 7 year old son who attends Douglas Elementary.

Greg ran for city council because he feels it is important to be active in shaping the future of the community.

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.

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.

Holiday Happenings

Businesses in Douglas are participating in Festive Fridays each week in December. Shops are open until 9:00 p.m. serving refreshments. Look for the candy cane poster in their windows.

The First Annual Light Sculpture Contest entries will be on display, all month, at Beery Field beginning December 1st.

Find a "Toys For Tots" donation box at Respite Cappuccino Court.

Many restaurants, bars and organizations usher in the new year with festive events followed by a spectacular fireworks display over the harbor at midnight.

Notes from the Assessor.....

The property visits in Douglas are nearly complete and the updated information will be included in the 2008 assessments. Based on the corrected data, similar properties will now have similar valuations. Although this may cause properties to have varied changes in assessed values, the changes in taxable value will not increase at a rate greater than the 2.3% CPI. The exceptions are if there has been a change in ownership or improvements have been made to the property. The taxable value will not increase more than the rate of inflation based on the reappraisal. The significance of this is that the taxes are calculated from the taxable value, not the assessed value. The assessed valuation is required by state law to reflect 50% of the market value (typical selling price of similar properties), while the taxable value is a calculated field that is adjusted annually by the rate of inflation. Assessment change notices will be mailed in late February, 2008. If you feel the valuation stated does not accurately reflect market value, instructions for appeal procedures will be provided on the notification.

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



SNOWPLOWING

Snow plowing contractors and the residents they serve should be aware that State law prohibits the disposal of "snow, ice or slush onto or across a roadway or the shoulder of the roadway in a manner which obstructs the safe vision of the driver of a motor vehicle." The law further states that no snow, ice or slush can be deposited on any roadway or highway (MCLA 257-677a).

We recommend that residents who have a snowplow service make sure the snow from their driveway is deposited on their own property, not in the roadways, the road right-of-way or a neighboring property. The road right-of-way extends wider than the paved section of roadway.

If you call the City with problems or concerns regarding a snowplow contractor it is helpful if you can identify the contractor.