

# CITY OF DOUGLAS NEWSLETTER

Fall 2008

Volume 4, Edition 3

## DOUGLAS OKTOBERFEST

It's time for OKTOBERFEST 2008!

**Saturday, Oktober 4th, Beery Field, Downtown Douglas**

12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Proceeds to benefit the renovation of the Beery Field Park/Playground

Sponsored by: Macatawa Bank, Taylor Rental, Everyday People Cafe, Cunningham Dalman, Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), Chemical Bank, Saugatuck/Douglas Area Business Association (SABA), State Farm Insurance of Douglas, I.H.S. Distributing

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| 12:00 pm          | <b><u>Opening Ceremony</u></b><br>Parade down Center Street<br>Rifle ceremony<br>Tapping of the Keg with Alphorn performance<br>Bier Tent opens<br>Food Court opens<br>Bier Stein and Shirt sales begin |
| 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm | Ein Prosit 35-piece Traditional German Band   |
| 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm | <b><u>Kinderplatz Kids Games</u></b><br>Root Beer Barrel Roll<br>Face Painting<br>Mug Races<br>Much more.....   |
| 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm | The Strudel Meisters 12-piece German Band   |
| 6:00 pm           | Adult Keg Toss<br>Stein Holding Competition   |
| 6:30 pm           | Best Dressed Herr & Fraulein Competition  |
| 8:00 pm           | Closing Ceremony  |

You won't want to miss any of these events! Come enjoy the fun!

"Gekommen genieBen Sie den SpaB."

## 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

The City of Douglas offices  
will be closed November 27 and 28  
in observance of the  
Thanksgiving Holiday.

## **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. 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 Ordinances is now online at: [www.amlegal.com/douglas\\_mi/](http://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.

## **Are Fire and Emergency Vehicles Able to Find You?**

The Saugatuck-Douglas Police Department and the Saugatuck Township Fire Department asks that every building have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. Every second counts in an emergency. Make sure your home is properly identified.

### **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  
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

## **Uniform Video Services**

In December of 2006, Governor Granholm signed legislation to promote competition in providing video/cable service in the State of Michigan. This legislation is known as the "Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act". The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) is the agency designated to implement the Act.

If customers have a complaint about video/cable services, they should first attempt to resolve the issue by directly contacting their video/cable company. However, if customers are not able to resolve their complaints with the company, they may contact the MPSC for assistance.

**Mail: Michigan Public Service Commission  
Attn: Video Franchising  
6545 Mercantile Way  
Lansing MI 48909**

**Phone: (866) 552-7725**

**Fax: (517) 241-2400**

**Website: [www.michigan.gov/mpsc](http://www.michigan.gov/mpsc)**

## **Leaving the area for the winter????**

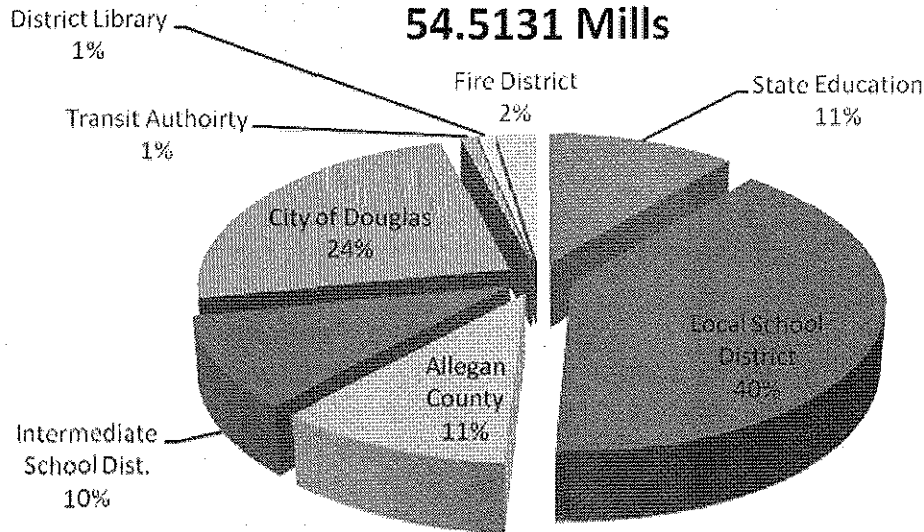
If you would like the Police Department to check on your residence while out of town please call the office at (269) 857-4339.

Have a safe and healthy winter!

## WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?

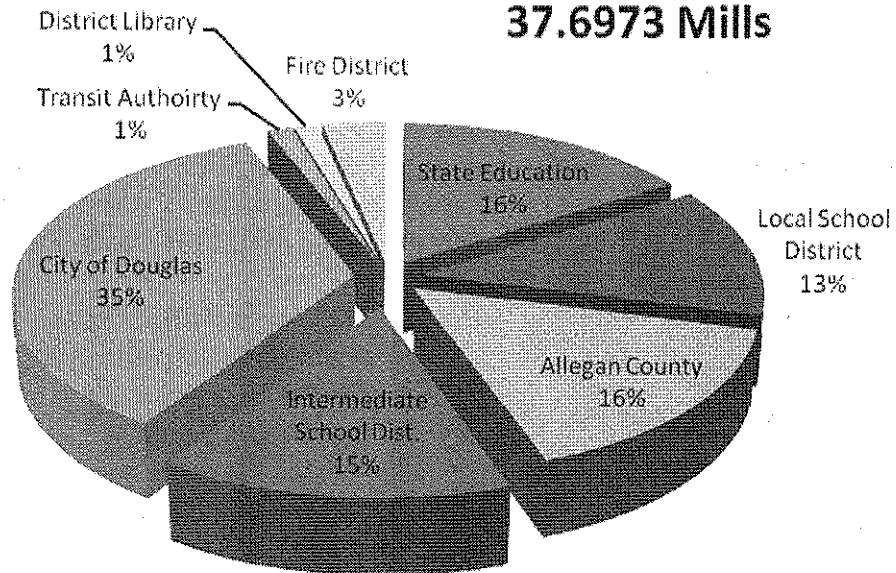
### Non-Homestead Property Taxes

54.5131 Mills



### Homestead Property Taxes

37.6973 Mills



Where do your property tax dollars go? As displayed in the pie charts above approximately one-third of every tax dollar goes to the City of Douglas. The other two-thirds of every tax dollar goes to Saugatuck Public Schools, Ottawa Area Intermediate School District, State Education Tax (SET) and Allegan County. Although the City performs all of the assessing, billing, mailing, collecting and disbursing, only the administration fee (1%) of the winter tax bills remains with the City.

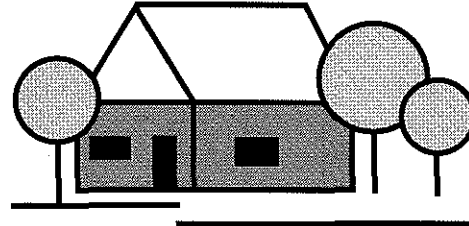
The City's approximate 33% is made up of two millages. The City Operating Millage which is levied at 11.2004 mills and the Road Millage levied at 1.8814 mills has not changed since Douglas became a City in 2004. Our City Charter allows for a total of 20 mills to be collected, but the city council has elected to maintain the total city tax levy at just over 13 mills.

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The City Operating Millage is the main source of revenue for the City and goes into the City's General Fund. The Operating Millage represents two-thirds of the City's General Fund revenue. The General Fund is used for most of the City's operating expenses, such as police department operations, Department of Public Works operations, administrative employees, contractual consultants, and minor equipment and vehicles. The Road Millage can only be used for road construction, repair and maintenance. The Road Millage is used to help fund the Major and Local Street Funds. Monies received from the State for City roads accounts for less than 30% of the necessary funding for road maintenance each year.



2008 Millage Rates	<u>100% PRE Homestead</u>		<u>Non-Homestead</u>	
	Summer	Winter**	Summer	Winter**
S.E.T.	6.0000	0	6.0000	0
School Operating*	0	0	8.4079	8.4079
School Debt	1.3000	1.3000	1.3000	1.3000
School Supplement	0.5921	0.5921	0.5921	0.5921
School Bld/Site	0.4493	0.4493	0.4493	0.4493
School Recreation	0.2305	0	0.2305	0
Intermediate School	5.5234	0	5.5234	0
Allegan County Oper	4.6577	0	4.6577	0
County Roads	0	0.9998	0	0.9998
County Seniors	0	0.2399	0	0.2399
Transit Authority	0	0.5000	0	0.5000
District Library	0	0.4882	0	0.4882
Fire District	0	1.2932	0	1.2932
City Operating	11.2004	0	11.2004	0
City Roads	1.88140	0	1.88140	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>31.8348</b>	<b>5.8625</b>	<b>40.2427</b>	<b>14.2704</b>

\*100% PRE (Principal Residence Exemption) Homestead is exempt from School Operating Millage. To qualify for a Principal Residence Exemption, this must be your principal Michigan residence and you must own and occupy the property by May 1st of any given year.

\*\*Winter Millage rates are 2007 actuals; 2008 rates are not yet available.

Summer tax statements are mailed the first week in July and are due by September 14th. Winter tax statements are mailed the first week of December and are due by February 14th. Uncollected taxes are turned over to Allegan County on March 1st of each year.

To calculate taxes multiply your Taxable Value by the millage rate and divide by 1,000.  
 Example: \$150,000 taxable value x 31.8348 divided by 1,000 = \$4,775.22.

## **Digital Television Transition: February 17, 2009**

Congress has mandated that all full power, over-the-air broadcast stations return the analog spectrum they are currently using to the government and begin broadcasting exclusively in digital format effective February 17, 2009.

If all of your television sets are hooked up to cable or satellite, you will not be impacted. This is not a cable problem.

If your television is not connected to cable and receives a picture with the help of "rabbit ears" or an outside antenna, it will stop receiving signals on February 17, 2009.

In order to continue to receive a picture on your analog television, you must either:

Subscribe to a pay TV service provider such as cable.

Purchase digital-to-analog converter boxes to use with current TV's (\$40 government-issued coupons are available by visiting [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov))

Purchase a new digital TV.

Available coupons allow each household to request two \$40 coupons to offset the price of a digital-to-analog converter, which retails for up to \$70. These coupons will be good for 90 days from the time of receipt and can be used at electronic stores such as Best Buy and Radio Shack.

There are two ways you can request vouchers. Call the Coupon Program 24-hour hotline at 1-888-DTV-2009 or visit <http://www.DTV.gov>.

## **November 4th General Election**

The November 4th General Election promises to be an especially busy day. Besides electing a new President, Douglas voters will select four council members. Council members Matt Balmer and Diane Bailey have both filed petitions for re-election. Newcomer Robert Sapita has also filed for one of the four available council seats. There is still time to register to be a write-in candidate to fill the fourth seat. Write-in candidates must file a declaration of intent with the City Clerk by Friday, October 31, 2008.

Voters must be registered by October 6, 2008 to be eligible to vote in the November election.

All voters are required to present a valid photo ID when requesting a ballot.

Voters may experience a wait to vote in this election. Please be patient so the election inspectors may assist everyone.

If you will be out of town on Election Day absentee ballots are available in the City Clerk's office until Monday, November 3rd.

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

## **Create a Workplace Recycling Program**

**So, how do you start recycling at work? That's what this article is about - to walk you through the process. If you already recycle at home, you'll find many similarities to office recycling. Start with just a couple of products. Once your program is up and running-add others. Eventually, you will have a flawless program in place.**

**Let's get started on creating your office recycling program:**

- **Choose a recycling coordinator**
- **Pick materials to recycle**
- **Decide your collection method**
- **Determine how it will be hauled away**
- **Setup recycling bins and guidelines**
- **Monitor the program**
- **Promote your program through education**
- **If you have custodial staff, what role will they play?**

## **THE RIGHT TO WALK ON THE SHORES OF THE GREAT LAKES**

The Michigan Supreme Court ruled that the public has the right to walk "lakewards of the natural ordinary high water mark" as defined by the Great Lakes Submerged Lands Act, which is part of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.

The court outlined the history of the public trust doctrine in recognition by the courts that the sovereign must preserve and protect navigable waters for its people. The doctrine passed from the English courts to the American colonies, to the Northwest Territory, and ultimately, to Michigan. According to the court, landowners on the Great Lakes always take their title subject to the limitation of public rights under the public trust doctrine. The court held that the public trust doctrine in Michigan permits pedestrian use of the Great Lakes, up to and including the land below the ordinary high water mark.

MML: Glass v Goeckel, 473 Mich 667 (2005)

## **Leaf and Brush Pick Up Schedule**

### **LEAF PICK UP 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 Thru 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.

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

Allagan 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 residents 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. 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 ordinance amendments; and reviewing, drafting and adopting a comprehensive plan for Douglas. Planning Commission members meet once a month, on the second Wednesday of each 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.**

## **A Reminder from the Zoning Administrator**

Residents are reminded that the City's sign ordinance expressly prohibits private signs of any kind from being placed in public rights-of-way. Examples include, but are not limited to, political and candidate endorsement signage and real estate "For Sale" signs. Generally speaking, City roadway rights-of-way are 66' in width...33' from either side of the centerline of the roadway. We thank you for your cooperation.

## **2009 Mardi Gras Parade**

It's time to begin planning your costume for 2009 Mardi Gras. The parade theme will be "Kings and Queens".

Contact John Thomas, Parade Coordinator, at 857-8738 for further information.

## **DID YOU KNOW.....MICHIGAN WATER FACTS**

- √ There are over 1,300 public boating access sites and over 80 harbors and marinas throughout the State of Michigan administered by state, county, and local units of government.
- √ Lake Michigan is so big that more than 400,000 gallons of rain or snow land on the Lake every second!
- √ Over the last century, the world population has tripled, but water use has multiplied six-fold.
- √ Washing machines may use up to 60 gallons of water per load. Dishwashers use at least 15 gallons per load while older toilets use up to 7 gallons per flush. Faucets flow water at 3-5 gallons per minute. A bathtub filled half full will contain at least 50 gallons.
- √ A continuous leak, caused by water leaking through the flush tank overflow on a toilet, can waste as much as 145,000 gallons of water during a three-month period. This would be an additional \$1,350 on your water bill.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

City of the Village of Douglas  
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Douglas MI 49406-0757  
phone: 269 857-1438  
fax: 269 857-4751  
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[douglas@douglasmichigan.com](mailto:douglas@douglasmichigan.com)

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