

**Date:** June 18, 2008

**To:** Mayor and Council Members

**From:** John Archocosky

**RE:** Monthly Activity Report

As you may have noticed, the number of projects on the monthly Pending Issues List has begun to reduce over the past year. Four years ago we had as many as 24 active projects on the report at a given time. Now however, the number is much shorter with several of the projects being held on the list with only bookkeeping issues to complete before removal. This doesn't mean however, that we have less to do but merely that we are starting to get caught up on projects that have been long overdue for completion. The City has made considerable strides on mandated improvements to both our water and sewer systems in the past 5 years. Although there remain several areas that still require work, we can begin to make these repairs or replacements at a much more tolerable pace.

The "three lane test" restriping of the US2 corridor by MDOT was completed last week, much ahead of schedule. Some residents have commented that they don't care for the change however; it has only been in place for a few days and it will take time to adapt to the change. We have observed the traffic from the side streets and so far have not seen any problems. Traffic appears to have slowed down somewhat but it is still very early to determine if it will remain that way.

This past Thursday was the first of this summer's "Farmer's Markets" held behind City Hall which are being sponsored by the Michigan State University Extension Service. Although there were only a few vendors this time the number is expected to grow. Several people commented that they appreciated the opportunity to purchase locally grown or produced products and look forward to the weekly event.

The DPW has been busy with sprucing up the downtown in preparation for last week's rodeo parade. Although attendance seemed to have been down from some previous years, many people lined the streets for the event. Hopefully, as people adapt to the event being held early in the summer, the attendance and participation will increase once again.

Having recently completed a tour of several of our parks, it would be a good time to schedule a meeting of the City's Recreation Committee to update our list of repairs and major improvements in the recreation plan. As safety requirements have changed over the past few years, many of our park amenities will have to be updated to meet the recommended design regulations.

Members of the City's Planning/Zoning Board, our City Attorney, and some Council members attended class in Watersmeet to learn about the State mandated changes to municipal zoning which will take effect in 2011. The changes are significant and will require a substantial amount of work on the City's behalf. This is likely going to be a lengthy process which must begin soon.