

Date: November 13, 2008

To: Mayor and Council Members

From: John Archocosky

RE: Monthly Activity Report

After many months of committee meetings and negotiations, the Central School project has finally taken its first major step to becoming a reality. By the time our Regular City meeting is held the DDA members, Brownfield members, and the City Council will have met with Mr. Jeff Hukill and DDA Chairman James Gibula will have signed a Brownfield Redevelopment Loan Contract with the DEQ. The loan is not to exceed \$734,648 for the environmental cleanup of the former Central School site and has been made possible through the ***Clean Michigan Implementation, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act.***

In addition to the DEQ loan, the DDA has also quite recently entered into an Option Agreement with the Hovey Companies, LLC to purchase the former Central School for a price of \$100,000. Although the agreement is subject to various conditions, the greatest obstacle to overcome is that the DDA provides the developer a "clean" site. The site will have to meet MSHDA's requirements for residential standards. The DEQ loan will enable the necessary cleanup to take place. Although it is difficult to forecast a timetable for the cleanup to be completed, it should be noted that the consultants are prepared to complete and submit a Brownfield Redevelopment Work Plan to the DEQ within the next 5-10 days. This project is finally making significant headway to becoming the City's newest "Affordable Housing" complex.

November 4th turned out to be one of the heaviest Election Day turnouts for several years. Prior to the election, the City Clerk processed 367 Absentee Voter Applications or about 27% which is an unusually high number. Needless to say, the office was extremely busy in the days just prior to the election. Once again, all four precincts voted on the main floor which seemed to work out quite well. The question has come up once again however as to the need to continue with four precincts in a city of our size. At some point in the future, the Council may wish to consider reducing the City into only two precincts. If that were to be considered it could either be divided along a north and south line or east and west. The difference being that two council members would be elected from each precinct as opposed 4 from 4. The Mayor could continue to be elected at large. This could result in savings during elections and would still provide in fair representation to all three original communities. Just a thought you may want to consider prior to 2010.

This past week I traveled to Lansing for meetings and will be going down again on the 18th to attend an Entrepreneurial Workshop sponsored by MSU, MML, MTA, and several private concerns. The workshop primarily deals with developing economic strategies to help our community. Hopefully, this will help us find ways to expand on our current efforts.

We experienced our first snowfall over this past weekend as a reminder of what's to come. Our DPW is well prepared for winter conditions and ready for the first storm when it comes.