



Scott Faulkner - Economic and Community Development Coordinator

ECDC Monthly Activity Report to City Council September 2019

WHY THINK NEWAYGO?



City of Newaygo commercial real estate transaction volume is UP **171% in the past 3 years.**



Lower Cost of Living: Newaygo's residential real estate prices are **38% less than greater West Michigan.**



Promise Zone: A proven pathway to tuition-free college for Newaygo area residents.



Over \$70M in new commercial and civic investments since 2018: That's \$35,000.00 per capita!



Newaygo: A truly safe place to raise a family: NPD has the highest solved crime rate in all of West Michigan: 68%!



City of Newaygo selected as permanent site for the Newaygo County Museum & Cultural Heritage Center. \$1.2M renovation



Clean, award winning water quality in the City, and in the wild: No wonder Newaygo County averages **\$11.16M each month in tourism spending!**



In just a single Newaygo neighborhood, **19 new custom homes** have been permitted for construction in just 24 months.



KEY NEW ACTIVITIES

Working with MRWA, RC3 and US Forest Service on City Tree initiative. \$100K grant submitted to USFS.

I Am Newaygo! Public Engagement Meeting held on Thursday, Aug 15 - focus on environmental projects, and actions. Recommendations to City Council are being prioritized and organized.

MEDC Henning Park Suspension Bridge Grant back in play \$1.55M total, artistic renderings being created by UPEA. Chamber endorsement.

Redevelopment Ready Community Project: Economic Development Strategy complete and approved by City Council and Boards: Marketing Plan draft to be completed in Sept.

Begin Downtown Extension project concept with West Michigan developer. Concurrently considering Housing Study for greater Newaygo area, to include Garfield, Brooks, and Croton Townships. Reviewing Chamber financed study.

Working with the US VA Administration on a potential project to bring a regional RBOC to the City. Muskegon CBOC tour scheduled for September 16th 2019.

Christian Healthcare Centers met with City and Rockford Construction on August 13 for the design, construction, and go-live of a Newaygo delivery center in downtown or Op Zone site.

Federal Home Loan Bank options reviewed, potential partnership with Choice One bank as fiduciary and administrator of program. Jan 2020

The Dragon Trail project has raised \$1.2M to date, with a working pipeline of \$1.8M in process. FERC Approval received July 15. Construction to begin September 9th 2019!