



Scott Faulkner - Economic and Community Development Coordinator

## ECDC Monthly Activity Report to City Council January 2020

### WHY THINK NEWAYGO?



Downtown Newaygo reinvestment totals over \$3.37M in 2019 and planned for 2020- Restoration of 4 historic cornerstone properties!



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



Newaygo is the Heart of the Muskegon River! Our County averages **\$11.16M each month** in tourism spending!



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



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



In just a single Newaygo neighborhood, **23 new custom homes** have been permitted for construction in just 24 months.



### KEY NEW ACTIVITIES

Workforce housing concepts with multiple West Michigan developers being developed: Sites under consideration include Sand Mold, Industrial Park, OZ properties, Rainside, and upper story downtown buildings.

Final paperwork submitted 1/6/20 to MEDC for LOI on Newaygo Crossing Suspension Bridge. Initial engineering tasks completed.

Redevelopment Ready Community Project: Draft Branding and Marketing Plan completed and submitted to City Council in November, to be presented to PC & TIFA Boards January '20.

Working to retain Sand Mold engineering staff in the City of Newaygo with relocation to The Stream under a 5 year lease with improvements.

Christian Healthcare Centers setting up Newaygo legal entities but now do not wish to own commercial property. Exploring options with Rockford Construction, feasibility study on the table costing \$10K. Pursuing funding.

US VA Administration considering bringing regional RBOC to the City. VA visit in September, proposal for 1/3 of Stream submitted.

IAmNewaygo! projects and actions are being prioritized and organized as recommendations to City Council for 2020.

\$100K grant submitted to USFS is approved. Working with MRWA, local experts Symon Cronk and Evan Farinosi on City Tree initiative, planning meeting Jan.15th 9:30 @ The Stream.

Dragon Trail construction is well underway, with approx. 6 miles of trail now completed. \$770K new funding raised for the project in 2019.