



Scott Faulkner - Economic and Community Development Coordinator

ECDC Monthly Activity Report to City Council February 2020

WHY THINK NEWAYGO?



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



Entrepreneur-friendly city with largest % of our businesses under 99 employees. #1 rated County in MI in sales/employee at \$292K!



Safe city! Newaygo crime down 19% in a single year, the NPD now has the highest solved crime record in all of W. Michigan: 85%!



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



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



Lower Cost of Living: Newaygo's residential real estate prices are **35% less** than adjacent West Michigan counties.



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 considered: Sites include Sand Mold property, Industrial Park, OZ properties, Railside, 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 approved by Planning, TIFA, and NEDO, to be submitted to City Council for final approval.

Retained 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. Exploring options with Rockford and Copper Rock Construction. Build to suit options now on the table.

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. Next Meeting Feb 20!

\$100K grant submitted to USFS is approved. Working with MRWA, local experts Symon Cronk and Evan Farinosi on City Tree initiative, working on detailed 2 year plan.

Dragon Trail construction is well underway, with approx. 6.85 miles of trail in three locations now completed. Substantial funding raised in 2019.