**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 ⅓ 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.**