**ECDC Monthly Activity Report to City Council**

**March 2020**

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**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 $11.6M 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.

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**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, expansion of River Hills.
- Final paperwork submitted 1/6/20 to MEDC for LOI on pedestrian bridge. Initial engineering tasks completed. MEDC requesting revised app for LOI.
- Redevelopment Ready Community Project: Draft Branding & Marketing Plan recommended by PC, TIFA, NEDO, and IAmNewaygo!, submitting to City Council for March adoption.
- Retained Sand Mold engineering staff in the City of Newaygo with relocation to The Stream under a 5 year lease with improvements. Move-in scheduled for May 1st 2020.
- Christian Healthcare Centers finalizing architectural plans with Copper Rock Construction. Build to suit options now on the table. City to assist CHC with Newaygo introductions to businesses, churches, FACF.
- Museum Project is underway - architectural/engineering drawings complete, project is out for bid with 4 Commercial Contractors. Project to start Fall 2020 - Public kickoff event April 24th.
- Submitted CEDAM Pitch Grant for $25,000.00 in support of Muskegon River Bluffs Disc Golf Course at Shaw and Henning parks.
- $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.
- Considering Pilot project for City to become a rural model for Land Bank/Brownfield development - Sable Homes River Hills expansion may be test case.