



Scott Faulkner - Economic and Community Development Coordinator

ECDC Monthly Activity Report to City Council March 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 **\$11.6M 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.



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

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.