As we enter a brand new decade I want to wish each of you and your families a very Happy New Year from the City of Newaygo!

There are two critical events in our future, and I encourage you to fulfill your civic responsibility by participating in both.

The 2020 Census is upon us, and it is very important that everyone complete the Census in whichever form is easiest. You can complete the hard copy provided to you, go on-line or answer the questions when a Census Taker comes to your home.

Secondly, please vote March 10 in the Michigan Presidential Primary.

More information is provided on page 7 of this newsletter.

Your participation is one of the many things that helps make Newaygo a great place to live, work and play!

Ed Fedell, Mayor
City of Newaygo

Each decade the federal government conducts a census of the entire US population, and it is critical that all residents participate. An accurate count is used for many reasons:

- Distribution of more than $675 Billion in Federal Funds
- Determine how to apportion congressional seats
- Where to build schools, hospitals and businesses

Please make sure our community is counted by completing your census. This year for the first time, responses can be submitted online, although the traditional methods of phone or mail are also options.

The Census Web site, at 2020census.gov provides information about the process and how you can help spread the word. In March the public can begin responding on-line, and during June and July Census Takers will go door-to-door to count persons who have not responded.

Stay Safe and Secure

The Census Bureau will never ask for private information, including

- Social Security Numbers
- Bank or credit card numbers
- Money or donations

In addition, your responses can only be used to produce statistics, this information can not be used by law enforcement or to determine personal eligibility for government benefits.

Finally, make sure that a Census taker that visits your home has a valid ID badge, including photo, a US Dep’t. of Commerce watermark and an expiration date.
The Newaygo Police Department believes that successful policing must involve the community and serve their needs. In that spirit, the NPD has spent many hours over the past few months participating in a wide variety of activities intended to connect with local residents.

During “No Shave October and November” several officers collected pledges and grew beards to raise money for a donation to The Hope Project. They partnered with representatives from Resonate Church and raised nearly $1,000.

New Officer Melinda Passmore, above left, is sworn into office by City Clerk Kim Goodin as NPD Chief Georgia Andres looks on. Passmore is originally from Cadillac and graduated from both Grand Rapids Community College and GRCC Police Academy. She has spent two years working in law enforcement.

During the “Turkeys Not Tickets” program officers made routine traffic stops, and instead of a citation, presented drivers with turkeys. Thanks to the generosity of the local VFW and Leppinks, the NPD was able to distribute 32 turkeys, in addition to several holiday meals given to a select few families.

During December the NPD, along with other county law enforcement officers, participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program to help area youngsters select gifts for their families.

Each year students from Newaygo Elementary School make and deliver ornaments for the City Christmas Tree. The tree is decorated with the help of Beaver Tree Service and their lift truck just in time for the annual Christmas Walk.

Above, Officer Mitch Rood helps students safely cross the street on their way back to school. At right, Rood, Chief Andres, and K-9 Officer Troy Nelson take a break to pose with Santa.
**From the City Manager’s Desk**

*Stay Tuned. Stay Engaged.*

I say it at meetings, I say it in conversation, and I say it here. But exactly what do I mean? How do you “Stay Tuned and Stay Engaged?”

There are many ways to Stay Tuned in our Community. The easiest is to visit our City website (newaygocity.org) regularly. We work to provide you with accurate, timely information like calendars, “I Am Newaygo” updates, MSHDA news and much more. For instance, this is where you will find information about new downtown parking and lane configuration along M37 later this spring. You will also learn details about the 2020 MDOT Penoyer Creek bridge project and their 2021 M-37 construction plans as those projects get closer.

This newsletter works to bring you seasonal, helpful information about things that affect our City. Winter parking guidelines, Census and Election information, and regular updates about Newaygo organizations are a regular part of this; please feel free to share it with others.

If you Stay Tuned as you drive through town, you have noticed the Northwest General Store has brand new storefront glass thanks to the MEDC Façade grant. Other, less noticeable updates are being done inside the Muskegon River Inn (Market 41) as part of this grant.

Residents of healthy, growing communities like ours Stay Engaged. I would again refer you to our website for meeting schedules and various opportunities to become and stay involved. One easy way to Stay Engaged is to help present Newaygo in the best possible light by keeping your sidewalks clear of snow and ice during the coming months. But there are many other opportunities to have your voice heard if you Stay Tuned.

There are many new and exciting projects just ahead of us to continue making Newaygo the greatest, safest community it can be. As we enter 2020 I want to wish you all the very best during the coming year.

**Stay Tuned. Stay Engaged.**

Jon Schneider,
Newaygo City Manager

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**Michigan’s Dragon at Hardy Dam**

After nine years of planning, The Dragon is under construction in three different areas. Once completed, the 47-mile natural surface trail will welcome mountain bikers, hikers and runners. It is expected to bring more than 70 new jobs to the area, along with an additional 104,000 visitors and $4.15 Million in economic activity.

The trail is designed to protect local habitats and endangered species such as eagles, turtles, butterflies and rare plants, while minimizing ongoing soil erosion. Construction firms are carefully screened for their adherence to environmental safeguards.

This non-motorized trail is a collaboration among Mecosta and Newaygo County Parks Departments, Consumers Energy, MSU, Western Michigan Mountain Biking Alliance, and Newaygo Nations. Visit www.newaygocity.org for more information about the trail’s construction.

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Michigan’s Dragon was named to reflect the similarity of Hardy Pond to a Chinese Dragon.
The Newaygo County Board of Commissioners recently approved a FEMA Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant in order to revise and reauthorize the existing Newaygo County Hazard Management Plan. This plan is required in order to maintain eligibility to seek federal funding under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program and is required to be updated every five years.

**Hazard mitigation** is any action taken before, during, or after a disaster to permanently eliminate or reduce the long-term risk to human life and property from natural, technological, and man-made hazards. The purpose of mitigation planning is to identify policies and actions that help to reduce risk and future losses.

Examples of hazard mitigation include but are not limited to:

- Voluntary acquisition or elevation of flood prone structures
- Creation of defensible spaces around wildland urban interface areas
- Protective measures for utility infrastructure
- Storm water management projects that reduce flood risk

Maintaining a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan has positive, local impacts. For instance, in December 2016, Newaygo County received over $200,000 in grants to implement a new flood warning system for approximately 35 miles of the Muskegon River.

For more information about Newaygo County Emergency Services, or to volunteer, visit their page at [http://www.countyofnewaygo.com/EmergencyServices.aspx](http://www.countyofnewaygo.com/EmergencyServices.aspx)

Please help provide the most up-to-date community data and information by participating in the short survey found at the website below:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FphJxb9yaEu0ITdZSCbc1t03a5ULDxJckxRvak4PlzZUMlJRCUVkJN0dJVzFUFJRR1lVVhBM1RKN4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FphJxb9yaEu0ITdZSCbc1t03a5ULDxJckxRvak4PlzZUMlJRCUVkJN0dJVzFUFJRR1lVVhBM1RKN4u)
The Newaygo County Museum and Heritage Center has undergone many changes and updates over the past 18 months. Volunteers have spent their time building display cases, painting, and generally updating the museum to make it more inviting.

Several exhibits have been updated with major revisions and paint, like the lumbering display and Native American panels, shown below.

In addition to freshening up the actual museum, hundreds of donations and artifacts warehoused off-site were cataloged, organized and properly stored.

According to Museum Director, Steven Radtke, at any time only about 10% of a museum’s items are on display. “This allows us options for changing out exhibits without reusing specific artifacts too often,” said Radtke.

ALL Newaygo County students in grades 2, 3, and 4 visit the Museum thanks to a grant from the Gerber Foundation that covers transportation costs.

Many retired educators who volunteer their time have worked to make certain that students receive appropriate lessons that support grade-level content expectations.

2nd Grade: Pioneer Children
3rd Grade: Native Americans and the Fur Trade
4th Grade: Lumbering in Newaygo County

Use our Research Room

Genealogy enthusiasts are invited to use the resources in the Research Room during regular hours. There are many options available, including

- Self-Guided Research
- Ancestry.com
- Newspaper Archives
- Cemetery Indexes

Or, opt for Assisted Research by appointment.

@newaygocountyhistory.org
The Department of Public Works offers guidelines to facilitate snow removal and to help keep all Newaygo Residents safe during the winter months. Please review these procedures carefully.

If you experience water or sewer problems, the DPW is available weekdays from 7:00 am to 3:00 pm. The emergency after hours number to call is 231-414-7311. If you want the DPW to respond to your house after hours and learn that the problem is not the city’s responsibility, you will be billed for overtime.

Snow removal will occur in a specific order. Plow drivers will not move to the next level until adequate driving conditions are met.

- Hills first – Croton, Whiskey Wood, and Quarterline
- School Bus routes and major roads
- Local neighborhood and secondary streets.

**NO PARKING during winter months:**
- Barton Street
- M-37 3:00 AM to 6:00 AM
- ALL OTHER city streets from 2:00 AM to 7:00 AM
- East Water Street has odd/even parking

**OTHER REMINDERS:**

It is the resident’s responsibility to maintain sidewalks in front of your residence (with the exception of those living inside the Principal Shopping District, or PSD)

Please remind snowplow services NOT to push snow onto the sidewalks.

Apartment Tenants in the PSD must park in designated parking areas to avoid being ticketed. Call the City Offices to determine designated parking areas.

Blue “locator stakes” will be placed by meters to easily locate them if the water must be shut off due to a leak. PLEASE do not remove these stakes.

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**Winter Taxes are Due February 14, 2020**

If you or someone you know needs help with delinquent taxes, please call the Newaygo County Treasurer’s Office at 231-689-7230. They are eager to assist taxpayers and encourage everyone to begin making minimum payments now on delinquent taxes.

**MSHDA’s Step Forward Program** is available to pay Delinquent Property Taxes for qualified applicants. For help, call 866-946-7432 or visit https://www.stepforwardmichigan.org.

The local agencies listed here may be able to help with delinquent taxes. They typically will consider income, assets and other circumstances to determine eligibility.

**MSU Finance and Home Ownership Educator** (231) 757-4789.

**Newaygo County Department of Health and Human Services**
1025 E. James St. White Cloud
231-689-5500

**True North Community Services and Center for Non-Profit Housing**
6308 S. Warner, Fremont
231-924-0641

**Love, INC of Newaygo County**
11 West 96 St., Grant
231-652-4099

**Five Cap Inc.**
434 N. Evergreen (M-37), White Cloud
231-689-6688

**Department of Newaygo County Veteran Affairs**
1087 Newell St., White Cloud
231-689-7030

The State Tax Commission sets the rate, or multiplier, that is the number used to determine your taxes each year. If you have questions, please contact the City Assessor at 231-652-1657 Ext. 216. If you wish to meet with the Board of Review, contact City Hall at 231-652-1657 ext. 210 to schedule an appointment.

**Board of Review Meetings:**

- March 11, 3:00 pm—9:00 pm
- March 12, 9:00 am—3:00 pm
The Presidential Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at Newaygo City Hall Council Chambers, 28 State Road.

The last day to register in any manner other than in person with the clerk for the March Election is Monday, February 24, 2020. In person registration with the local clerk is February 25-March 10, 2020 with proof of residency.

To be added to the City’s permanent absentee voter (AV) list, please notify the Clerk’s office at 231.652.1657 x 213 or email kgoodin@newaygocity.org.

Include your name, address and date of birth. This will allow you to be mailed an AV application prior to every election and gives you the option to vote absentee from your home.

The City is always looking for election inspectors to work at elections. If you are interested, please contact the City Clerk.

City of Newaygo Directory

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm
Phone (231) 652-1657

City Manager/Zoning Administrator Jon Schneider 231-652-1657 ext. 211
City Clerk Kim Goodin 231-652-1657 ext. 213
City Treasurer Kim Biegalle 231-652-1657 ext. 222
Newaygo Police Chief Georgia Andres 231-652-1655 ext. 215
City Assessor Dan Kirwin 231-652-1657 ext. 216
Utility Billing Clerk Ann Quick 231-652-1657 ext. 210
IT Administrator Brad Peets 231-652-1657 ext. 218
DPW Ron Wight, Superintendent M-F 7:00 am – 3:00 pm 231-652-7984
Emergency After Hours 231-414-7311

City Building Inspector Duane Cruzan 231-652-1657 ext. 236
North Country Inspection Services, LLC Newaygo Hours: M, W 1:00pm-3:00pm 231-689-7216
White Cloud Office

Boards and Committees

(For meeting dates, locations, and contact information, visit our website at www.newaygocity.org)

City Council: Ed Fedell, Mayor Mike Hikade
Roger Ederer Lee Black
Erin Burns Katie Walerczyk
Eric Johnson

Planning Commission:
Dave Chambers, Chair
Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA)
Ron Armstrong, Chair
Principal Shopping District (PSD)
Nick Looman, Chair
Newaygo Community Recreation Authority (NCRA)
Jennifer Badgero, Chair
Newaygo Economic Development Organization (NEDO)
George Heartwell, Chair

Visit our website: www.newaygocity.org
City of Newaygo

28 N. State Road
P.O. Box 308
Newaygo, MI 49337
Phone 231-652-1657

City of Newaygo financial and performance information can be found on the City’s website at:
http://newaygocity.org/forms-publications.php
On this page select the category “City Financial Information”.

January-March 2020

January

1 City Offices Closed in Observance of New Years
6 Newaygo Public Schools return from Break
8 7:30 am Principal Shopping District
9 8:00 am NCRA Meeting
9 6:30 pm Planning Commission Meeting
10 10:30 am NEDO
13 7:00 pm City Council Meeting
17 7:00 am TIFA Board Meeting

February

6 6:30 pm Planning Commission Meeting
10 7:00 pm City Council Meeting

14-17 Newaygo Public Schools Winter Break

March

5 6:30 pm Planning Commission Meeting
10 7 am—8 pm Presidential Primary Election
12 8:00 am NCRA Meeting
16 7:00 pm City Council Meeting

Visit our website calendar for up-to-date information:
www.newaygocity.org/city-calendar.php

Stay Safe and Secure

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- Social Security Numbers
- Bank or credit card numbers
- Money or donations

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