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STATE OF THE VILLAGE

MAY 2016

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Three Oaks, MI 49128

I thought I would dedicate this edition of the State of the Village newsletter to the volunteers that serve on the various boards and commissions of the Village. These volunteers serve because of their love of the Village and it's residents. Their reward is knowing they have contributed to the betterment of Three Oaks. And maybe a \$50 gift card at the end of the year. =)

The Planning Commission is an advisory board to the Village Council. They recommend measures to regulate the use of land and structures through zoning ordinances. These ordinances regulate what portions of the Village can be used for commercial, industrial and residential purposes and what kind of buildings and property uses are appropriate for those individual zones. The Planning Commission has just completed a year- long review and revision of the Zoning Ordinance. Another of the major tasks of the Planning Commission is to develop a Master Plan. The Master Plan is a blueprint of what Three Oaks will look like twenty and thirty years from now. The Planning Commission meets at 7:00 on the first Tuesday of each month.

The Parks and Recreation Board is also an advisory Board to the Village Council. As the name implies, the Board is charged with making short and long term plans for the various parks within the Village. The recent major upgrades to Carver Park, including the pavilion, were a result of hard work by the Parks Board. Other recent projects planned and designed by the Board are upgrades to Dillard Park on Cherry Street and improvements to Chamberlain Path downtown. The Parks and Recreation Board meets the first Monday of each month.

The Downtown Development Authority is focused on the commercial sections of the Village as the name implies. Their main function is to help promote a vibrant downtown both for visitors and those of us who live here. Most of their work is behind the scenes and may not be as visible to the public as actions of the Parks Board and Planning Commission. The popular Wurstfest celebration was the brainchild of the DDA. The Village's 150th anniversary is coming up in 2017 and the DDA will be heavily involved in that celebration. The DDA meets the first Wednesday of each month April through December.

The Zoning Board of Appeals acts as an appeals board for decisions from the Planning Commission whether it is from an action voted on by the Planning Commission or to request a variance from the existing zoning ordinance. The ZBA only meets when needed to appeal a zoning decision.

We are extremely lucky to have such dedicated and caring members of our community willing to serve. We periodically have openings on these Boards. If you are interested in joining your fellow residents and making a difference in the community, please contact me, any Council member or stop by Village Hall.

If you have any questions about what these Boards do, pending actions, hearings or meetings, please contact Village Manager Adam Umbrasas. There is always plenty of misinformation out there and Adam can give you the facts.

Our major projects this summer will be repairing the west end of Linden Street around the corner to Ash Street, spot paving on South Elm between the railroad tracks and Ash Street, microsealing of numerous streets in order to mitigate the effects of the freeze/thaw cycle and continued improvements on Carver Park and Dillard Park.

We continue to work with multiple parties interested in developments in Three Oaks, keeping in mind that our residents want growth, but also want Three Oaks to remain Three Oaks. We are hopeful that the Michigan State Housing Development Authority approves financing for the senior living facility proposal this summer.

I am happy to report that our recent audit found Three Oaks to be in excellent financial shape. By the time you receive this we will have paid off our loan to Berrien County, putting to bed the last remnant of the financial crisis of eight years ago.

I end each of these updates with the statement that Three Oaks is "the greatest place on the face of the earth to live and raise a family". People like the volunteers on these Boards go a long way towards keeping Three Oaks that way.

The Village Council meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00. Enjoy your summer, shop locally and support the businesses of Three Oaks!

On behalf of the Three Oaks Village Council



David G Grosse, Village President