



September 6, 2016

TO: Gaylord Community Residents and Guests

RE: Downtown Improvement Project

We would like to invite everyone to come to Downtown Gaylord this Autumn and see the beginning of what we think will be a transformation of our Community! As you read this information letter please be aware that each of the organizations depicted here are all supportive of what we think can only be described as a project which will move this community into the next generation.

We will try to give you good advice and information to share and be aware of as our Downtown begins its reconstruction. The most important of the messages is that Downtown is open for business! Come down and enjoy all your old favorite businesses and explore all the new ones as well. Each one of these businesses is special and each one has tastes, smells, and gifts that are one of a kind!

Special Events

Farmer's Markets Continue

As you may know Farmers are a tough bunch! They are not going to let a little construction project ruin their day, so don't you let it. Our Farmer's Market will continue on through the Fall ending with the Holiday Market just before Thanksgiving!

Orange Barrel Adventure

September 12th through October 31st

This event will encourage shoppers to come to our Downtown and visit the wonderful businesses that participate. Shoppers will receive a "Passport" to be stamped at participating businesses and a chance to vote for the "Best Window Display". Completed passports will be entered into a drawing where multiple shoppers will win gift certificates from participating businesses!

Witchin Night Out

Tuesday, October 11th

Grab your friends and come to downtown Gaylord for a howling good time as participating businesses become the place where witches and goblins love to hang out. Businesses will have spooky specials and refreshments galore. Additional information can be found on the Downtown Gaylord Facebook page.



Getting Around During Construction

Don't worry you can still drive into and through our Downtown. As you know Main Street is a State Highway and because of this it is a very special roadway; one that must continue to move traffic on a continuous basis. Because of this our community and Downtown benefit. We will see at least one single lane of traffic moving both westbound and eastbound and a turn lane continue to function along Main Street throughout construction. This fall, parking along the north side of Main Street will be prohibited to allow for construction; parallel parking on the south side of the street will remain open, as is. Next spring, we will see construction move to the south side of Main Street, where parking will be impacted on the south side, but parking will be open on the north side of the street. Will Main Street ever be shut down? Yes it will; we have two scheduled shut downs (one in the fall and one in the spring) that will occur on the project as we bring sanitary sewer mains and water mains across the roadway. However, they will be short in duration and properly detoured when they do occur!

Where do I park to enjoy the Downtown Shops and Farmers Market?

This is easy! Park in any of the back parking lots owned by the City. All of our Downtown Businesses are served by these lots. This fall, you will also be able to park along the south side of Main Street. Our Downtown businesses will be ready to continue to serve you, whether you enter through their front or back entrances!

What's the Schedule!

Autumn - 2016

Work will begin the week of September 12th with some lane closures as contractors begin work on pavement, curb and sidewalk removals on the North side of Main Street. Work will begin near Center Street working back to the west and ending at the Railroad tracks. During Stage 1 and Stage 2 Construction periods new water main and leads, storm sewer leads and structures, and some sanitary sewer work will be done. This work will finish off with new sidewalks, planters, and curbs going in along with temporary paving going down prior to winter setting in. Work should be ceasing around November 30th. During this time period no work is expected on the South side of Main Street.

Spring – 2017

Stage 3 Construction begins as soon as we can sometime in April! South Otsego will be the next area for reconstruction. Construction will include new sanitary sewer and leads, new water main and leads, reconfiguration of the roadway from a four lane roadway to a three lane, new sidewalks, and planters. During this phase of construction we will be closing the roadway to through traffic. It will enable us to speed the construction in this area by nearly three weeks. Work should be finished in the South Otsego corridor by Memorial Day!



Stage 4 Construction begins in and around June 1st. We will see our contractor move back to Main Street and begin the construction of a sanitary sewer crossing and then removals and reconstruction on the South side of Main Street. New curb and gutter, storm leads, planters and sidewalks will be constructed.

The Final Stage will then take place the last week in June. We expect at that time the construction of two of the three pedestrian refuge islands to be completed. They will be placed just east of the railroad tracks on Main Street and along the east side of the Court Avenue and Main Street intersection. The third refuge island, on South Otsego Avenue, just north of Second Street will have been constructed during Stage 3. These pedestrian islands will allow all of us to be able to cross these very busy roadways a little more safely and also do wonders in connecting our businesses to a much greater extent than they are now!

The construction items are set to be completed by the Fourth of July Weekend of 2017. Allowances will be given to the contractor to have until the first part of August to complete and set the streetscape furnishings in place and finish off the landscaping and tree placement.

What will be new?

People have asked so we are getting a new Downtown, but what will actually change? Our answer is just wait and see! Below are the things we are sure are new and that all will enjoy!

Pedestrian Islands

They will be nice! Anyone who uses our Downtown will love them.

Accented Crosswalks at the Islands

We will carry the stamped concrete look on our sidewalks out into the street where the Islands will be placed. The purpose is again to draw attention to these areas as a place where vehicles should be careful of people walking. One of the primary focus in creating a new Downtown was to make it safer. That is what was kept in mind throughout the project.

Cantilevered Signals at S. Otsego and Center Aves.

You used to have to travel to Traverse City or Petoskey to see these. Well not anymore! These signals will provide a single arm extending over the roadway with the signal lights and street names depicted on the armature. These signals have proven to be safer for the motorists.

Banner Poles

We will be placing eight banner poles in the Downtown area which will be separate from our light poles and we be used to display event banners and seasonal decorations. This allows our light poles to be utilized for their original purpose, illumination of the roadway and of course hanging flowers!



Entertainment Nodes

Two entertainment nodes will be placed in the Downtown. The first is set to go near the entrance to Claude Shannon Park and the second will be located at the intersection of Court and Main along the south side of Main Street across from the Veteran's Memorial and Court house lawn area. These nodes will be single pedestal coverings which will be used to display items and provide places for outdoor entertainment.

Planters and Trees with Irrigation

The Downtown will now be home to a number of new planter boxes. The boxes will be ever so slightly raised, but each box will hold some flowering perennials and a tree. The trees and flowers will be irrigated to provide them with an opportunity to flourish in Downtown, like our businesses!

New Benches and refurbished Trash Receptacles

A total of nine new benches will be added to the Downtown. The old benches will be retired out and in an effort to save money the existing trash receptacles will be reconditioned and repainted to come back out with a renewed life!

How do I stay informed on the progress of this project?

If you want to stay informed you can do a number of things. On Tuesday mornings at 9:00 am. in the City Council Chambers of the City Hall there will be a weekly construction meeting. This meeting will take place during the times when construction is occurring. The first such meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2016. Please call the City Hall on Mondays to see if a meeting is indeed scheduled. At this meeting the Engineers, the Contractor, and the City Staff will review the progress of the project. This meeting will be open to the public. Once the meeting agenda is completed we will open it up for general questions. Therefore, this is a good place to see when one particular construction item maybe finished off and another begun or to address an individual concern. This meeting will not, however, be an opportunity to protest or express your dissatisfaction about the project or one particular design decision that has taken place. These decisions are all behind us and have already been made. The purpose for these meetings are to update and inform.

After each of these meetings anyone interested can join the City Manager as he visits the job site and reviews certain portions of the work. Our City Manager may not know all the time what he is looking at during a construction project, so the help and company is very much welcomed!

Regular weekly updates during the construction period will also be given on 101.5 The Eagle radio station. Also check your Gaylord Herald Times weekly as well as the Weekly Choice. Both newspapers cover our community very well.



Final Thoughts!

Well good for you! If you have made this far you have learned some things. No doubt you are more informed now than before. I want you to understand that we are all invested in this community. We live together, work together and learn together. Our Downtown Merchants are ready for business. They are looking forward to this project and its completion. However, we are ready to celebrate its arrival as well. Enjoy this construction, come on down and watch it occur. There is nothing more interesting than seeing something transform. We want to thank you all for your patience as we move this project forward and come on Downtown!