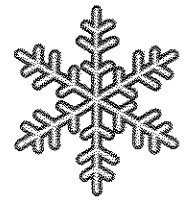




# THE VILLAGER



"JANUARY THRU JUNE 2012"

Winston Churchill once said, "The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." Nearly every community in Michigan is experiencing difficulty because of shrinking revenue and increasing costs. Roscommon is no exception. From 2008 to 2012, the village general fund revenue has decreased by over 22%.

The question is how we turn this difficulty into an opportunity. Together we need to develop a plan to move the Village forward. This year the Village Council and staff will be working on a program to identify the most immediate needs and use available resources to meet them. We will also have the opportunity to plan for future improvements.

All the stakeholders, residents, business owners, employees, must be involved to make this opportunity a reality. Give us your suggestions for what we need to do to turn the corner for our community.

Allen Lowe, Village Manager  
manager@roscommonvillage.com

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## **Roscommon DDA 2011 – A Year in Review and a Look to the Future**

The Roscommon Downtown Development Authority has been busy on your behalf this past year. The following are some of the accomplishments achieved:

1. Funding of the Flowers in the Village. The DDA makes an annual contribution of \$1,000 towards the purchase of the flowers planted each spring. In addition, the DDA funds the cost of the tractor used to water the flowers and an additional \$1,200 this year for soil replacement along the sidewalks. Local volunteers do the planting, watering, and weeding. A Big Thank You to all that participated!
2. The DDA has been subsidizing the rent costs at the River Center to allow for local non-profits to use the facility.
3. The DDA funded the costs for the advertising of the local Farm Market located at the River Center.
4. The improvements along the railroad tracks were finalized with 2011 expenditures of \$74,386.
5. The future site of the District Library was cleared of the old cabins and debris at a cost of \$12,880.
6. A new roof on the pavilion at Wallace Park was funded in the amount of \$3,900.
7. The DDA has continued the upkeep of the new Train Club building. This building was purchased and renovated jointly by the DDA and the Train Club with the intent of the club exercising a purchase option in the near future.
8. The DDA funded \$30,142 in façade grants in 2011. This included \$12,000 to the CRAF Center for the flooring in the workout area and new energy efficient windows.
9. During 2011, we finalized the purchase of the property located across from Hart Ford which will be the future site of the Roscommon Area District Library. In addition, we purchased the property adjacent to the River Center for future development.

Items we are currently working on for 2012 include:

1. Sound System – The DDA has entered into an agreement with Simoni Sound Company to purchase a new system for the downtown. This system will cover most of the downtown with a high quality sound from state of the art equipment. We have entered into an agreement with Dave Pflum for the installation. This system will enhance every event we have in the community!

1. District Library - We made a commitment to the Roscommon Area District Library and will continue to support their endeavor to construct a new facility on the property located in the DDA.
2. Farm Market – The DDA has made a commitment in 2012 to have a successful farm market this summer. We are looking into different days of business, better exposure, avenues to get more vendors and, of course, you coming to visit.
3. Façade Grants – We have a budget established of \$40,000 for 2012 on a first come basis. If you have a qualifying project in mind, please stop in the Village Hall for an application.
4. Festivals – The DDA has increased its advertising budget for 2012 in anticipation of helping in the promotion costs of festivals or events which are held in or have a direct impact on the downtown.
5. Banners – We are looking into a new banner design to be used in the spring as well as replacing some of the current banners which are fading. If you have an idea for a banner, let us know.
6. Snow Removal – The DDA made a commitment to the Village of Roscommon to subsidize the snow removal contract for 2012 in the amount of \$8,500. This is to ensure that the service continues as it has in the past.
7. Street Lights – Our street lights are beautiful to look at and add so much to the downtown aesthetics. However, there is a cost to keeping them working properly which is why the DDA has made an additional commitment to the Village to help with the maintenance of the lights.

It is no secret that this has been a difficult year for the Village of Roscommon. We have had the turmoil of a manager leaving. We lost our Village President, Jesse Carlson, who served the Village well. We have had difference of opinions of whether money should be spent on property development. We have the threat of losing historical buildings in the downtown. There has been difficulty operating cohesively as a board. But, it is a new year with new opportunities! We have a new Village Manager, Allen Lowe. Allen brings previous experience working with municipalities and a legal background as an attorney. Allen has already made strides in reorganizing the Village Committees and streamlining operations. We have a new President, Erine Adams. Erine is a business owner in the community, active in community events, and eager to make positive changes for the Village. We have a seasoned Treasurer, Janae Ostling, who has a dual roll as Treasurer for Higgins Township. She has been invaluable to the DDA. We have Dawn Dodge, Village Clerk and Nicole Crespo, Assistant, who are the front line for the Village Office when you enter and always can get you an answer to whatever questions you have. The DPW staff headed by Dave Hodges has done an excellent job in keeping the Village in great shape and has been a big help with the DDA during the past couple years of manager transitions. The Village Board is made up of local citizens that have given up their personal time to help make decisions on behalf of the community. This is a job that usually gets attention when somebody is in disagreement with something. I want to take the opportunity to thank all of you for serving on the board.

The economy in Michigan is still limping along. Municipalities are suffering from reduced tax bases and dwindling revenues from the state and federal government. This is evident in everyone's budgets which were adopted recently, including the DDA. We expect to spend down some of our fund balance in 2012 and made concessions to help the Village maintain some of its services like the sidewalk snow removal and street light maintenance. It is through open communication and cooperation that this was accomplished. In the same way, each of us needs to consider helping fellow businesses in the community by patronizing their stores and services to keep that dollar local.

The Roscommon Downtown Development Authority looks forward to serving you in 2012.

James M. Anderson, President

## 2011 Year in Review

- Cabins across from the Ford dealership were demolished
- Snowmobile trail changed to connect Roscommon to Grayling
- New sidewalks on Fourth Street and Second Street
- New Village Manager Allen Lowe
- New President Erine Adams
- New Trustees Diane Lippert and Bruce Yannatta
- Economic Vitality Incentive Program payments approved
- New roof on Wallace Park Pavilion
- Water tower antenna upgrades approved

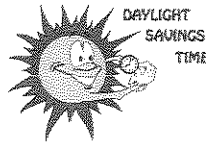
## "Sewer Rate Changes"

Effective January 2012 there will be an increase of 2.5% in both the base fee and the usage fee for sewer rates only.

The new rates will be:

Base Fee- \$16.54

Usage Fee- \$3.88 per 1,000 gal.



### Reminder

Make sure you set your clocks *forward* one hour on Sunday, March 11th.

~All Village offices will be closed on April 6th, Good Friday, and Monday, May 28th for Memorial Day~

## Winter Weather Problems

\*The Village is asking business owners and residents to keep the following information in mind:

-Even though the Village contracts to have snow cleared from certain selected sidewalks, it's for a "**walking path**" **only** for residents and visitors on foot, to gain better access to the downtown area. This is not intended as a snow removal service, and sometimes the path will not be cleared until the Roscommon County Road Commission has plowed Lake Street and Fifth Street. Owners and tenants are still responsible for keeping the snow and ice cleared adjacent to their properties.

-If you leave for an extended period of time and the weather is really cold, consider letting the water run slightly to prevent freeze-up. **No Credit** is given but it could save the inconvenience and expense of repairs. Please remember to properly insulate to prevent pipes from freezing. The Village is not responsible for thawing out plumbing on owners property.

-For safety reasons, at times the DPW must widen the roads clogged by snow. They do not plan to fill in drives and sidewalks but at times it just can't be avoided. We apologize for any inconvenience.

-The Village Cemetery does not get plowed during the winter months, as it has not been done in the past.

## ~Channel 2 Changes~

The Village's local access Channel 2 has been relocated to Channel 97 and Channel 991 by Charter Communications. Grayling's local access channel is 992, and Gerrish Township & Lyon Township share channel 993.

## "Treasurer's Tidbits"

All 2011 Village tax payments are payable to the Village of Roscommon until February 29th, 2012. After February 29th all payments are to be made to the Roscommon County Treasurer. Partial payments are accepted and encouraged from July 1st thru February 28th each year.

## Snowmobiles and ORVs

The speed limit for snowmobiles is **10 miles per hour**, and for ORVs it is **25 miles per hour**. Travel single file on the shoulder of the road. Both are prohibited on sidewalks, railroad right-of-way, and on the portion of the road surface that is only used for vehicular traffic. No traveling on M-18 (Lake Street), or on M-76 (Fifth Street) except to cross at a right angle for the purpose of getting from one area of town to another. Thank you for your cooperation!

## "Snow Removal & Parking Ordinances"

No person shall remove any snow or ice from any private property, including driveways and parking lots, and move it in or upon any public property.

Also, please help the DPW with plowing and remember there is no parking allowed on any Village street, alley, or right-of-way between the hours of 2:00 am. and 7:00 am.