

# City of Algonac Fall 2014

805 St. Clair River Drive  
Algonac, Michigan 48001

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## ROAD/WATER IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

In late 2013 the City of Algonac completed evaluations of both our street and water distribution systems. The studies created prioritized rankings of where improvements are most needed and will guide the City Council on the best places to spend available resources. This past summer a federal grant of \$220,000 paid for most of the cost of resurfacing, drainage and sidewalk improvements to Fruit Street east of State Street and Michigan Street between Howard and Liberty. Crack sealing work on nearly 7 miles of portions of 23 Algonac streets was completed several weeks ago at a cost of over \$33,400. This maintenance is designed to extend the life of those streets. The City Council recently authorized

engineering design work to re-surface Channelsyde Drive and replace an aging and undersized watermain the length of this street. Additional design work is now being completed to pave Sheldon Street south of Robbins Drive. Bids will be taken this winter on both of these projects with construction work expected to start in May 2015.

This coming spring, as part of the 2015-16 budget review, the City Council will hear recommendations from the City Manager for additional infrastructure improvements, subject to available funding. Recommendations will come from the prioritized lists developed as part of the completed studies. Priority projects on these lists include:

### STREETS:

Colonial Lane (SCRD-Michigan)  
Orchard (SCRD-Market)  
Dixie (SCRD-Michigan)  
Howard Street (State-Scout)  
Roselawn and Park Drive Loop  
Robbins (State to Dead end)



### WATER LINES:

Washington (North of Mill)  
St. Clair Blvd. (Dixie to Cherry)  
Venetian Way (entire length)  
Ruskin (West of Willard)  
Lee (North of Mill)  
Conley (Mackie to Edgewater)



## NEW HOMES BEING BUILT IN ALGONAC!

This year has seen a resurgence in the construction of new homes in the City of Algonac along with an uptick in residential additions and remodeling activity. About a dozen new homes have been built since the beginning of the year. These would include the Timber Ridge subdivision, infill housing in several locations and three new homes along Golfview Street in the first phase of development on the former site of the community center.

The City had been unsuccessful over a two year period in trying to sell or repurpose the former Lions Clubhouse that was in

need of major renovations. A unique public-private partnership agreed to earlier this year between the City of Algonac, Cortis Development and the Algonac Lions Club is seeing the former community center property redeveloped with 8 new single family homes, the first three of which are nearing completion. Thru terms of the agreement, the City conveyed the 2.2 acre site to Cortis Development for \$1. In exchange, Cortis agreed, at their cost, to demolish the community center building that had fallen into disrepair and build a new public sewer along Golfview Street to service homes which it



would build on the site. The Algonac Lions Club gave up property rights to a portion of the site and a large storage building located on the land. The Algonac Lions relocated these activities with assistance provided by Cortis Development. The agreement was win-win for all three parties involved and will see the city gain tax base and population from the new homes being built.

City of Algonac  
P.O. Box 454  
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## BOARDWALK REPAIRS REMAIN ON HOLD

As most residents know a portion of the boardwalk/seawall in Riverfront Park failed in March 2013. Approximately a 150 foot section of the boardwalk immediately north of the Walpole Island ferry dock and under lease for \$1 per year to the United States Coast Guard, sank about 18 inches and the area was immediately closed to the public. Since then the city has been working hard to find the cause of the failure. Several engineering studies commissioned by the city, including soil borings in the area and depth soundings in the channel, concluded in late 2013 that the primary cause of the failure was that the river next to the seawall was dredged too deep. The wall held up for many years but failed when water levels dropped to historic lows in March 2013.

The next step of uncovering who did the excessive dredging, when it was done, and finding documentation has been long and frustrating work for city officials. Months of research and inquiries have finally determined that Coast Guard officials were issued a permit, seventeen years ago, in late 1997, by the Corp of Engineers to dredge to depths that exceeded design standards for the adjoining seawall. In a meeting two months ago Coast Guard officials acknowledged these facts and are presently engaging their own engineering studies of the area to confirm the city's findings and develop a solution. We have been told these studies will be concluded in the spring of 2015. If these studies result in the Coast Guard accepting primary responsibility, the earliest date for repair work, scheduled thru the federal bureaucracy, would be a year from now in October 2015. Please be assured that your City Council and staff is committed to getting the boardwalk repaired as soon as possible but equally committed to having it repaired properly and with as little city funds involved as possible. We apologize for the inconvenience as we work to fix the problem as quickly as possible.

## SANTA ARRIVES DECEMBER 3RD!!

The annual Algonac Christmas tree lighting ceremony will take place at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday December 3rd in front of city hall. Successful efforts to enhance the event continue this year with the help of the Algonac Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary and other volunteers.



The tree lighting ceremony will immediately follow the Santa parade schedule to start at 6:15 p.m. and featuring decorated and lighted antique tractors. After Santa arrives at City Hall and the tree lighting ceremony concludes with music from the Algonac High School band, the tractors will offer hayrides in the neighborhood behind city hall. The fire hall will be cleared of equipment and everyone invited inside. Christmas music will be playing and refreshments will be served with all children having a chance to visit with Santa and have their picture taken with him. Please join us on December 3rd.