



Internal Memo

November 7, 2019

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator *WCM*

SUBJECT: November 2019 Information Update

1. Mercy Health Ground Breaking – Mercy Health is celebrating a ground-breaking at its new Norton Shores location. The event is scheduled for Thursday, November 14, 2019 at 4:15 pm at 3570 Henry Street. Refreshments will be served at Norton Family Practice following the ground breaking. Please see attached.
2. Thanksgiving Holiday – Non-emergency offices will be closed November 28 & 29, 2019 to recognize the Thanksgiving Holiday.
3. Election Results – Attached is a spreadsheet containing results of the November 5, 2019 local general election. Please join me in thanking our City Clerk, Shelly Stibitz, Administrative Assistant, Taylor Hobby, Programs Assistant, Cheryl Ortquist, Part-time Clerical employee, Lynne Fuller, and many poll workers on their weeks-long diligent work on the election!
4. Muskegon Area First Funding – Muskegon County recently approved funding towards Muskegon Area First services that covers the 14-member municipal users' group. The amount is \$140,000 each year for three years. The savings to the City is \$33,355 annually. The funding is budget neutral and does not increase waste water rates. It will also provide needed economic development services to, particularly townships, that typically cannot afford such services. It's beneficial to the waste water system in that it will hopefully increase attraction efforts to industries that will hook up to the system and take advantage of its excess capacity and provide needed revenue.

In a related matter, Muskegon Area First has recently gone through a transition from a mostly publicly funded organization to a mostly privately funded organization. Revenue in the current budget has increased significantly but only 25% comes from public entities. Also, the board makeup is mostly private with three seats representing local government including one municipal, one township and one county representative. The Muskegon Wastewater Users' Group appointed me as the city representative, Fruitport Township Supervisor Heidi Tice as the township representative and Mark Eisenbarth will serve as the county representative.

5. Shoreline Erosion – The Michigan Department of the Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) recently announced that it will expedite shoreline erosion permits for homes threatened by high lake levels. Building Division and Zoning staff are participating in an EGLE webinar regarding the subject, staff will do what it can to assist residents in a timely manner.

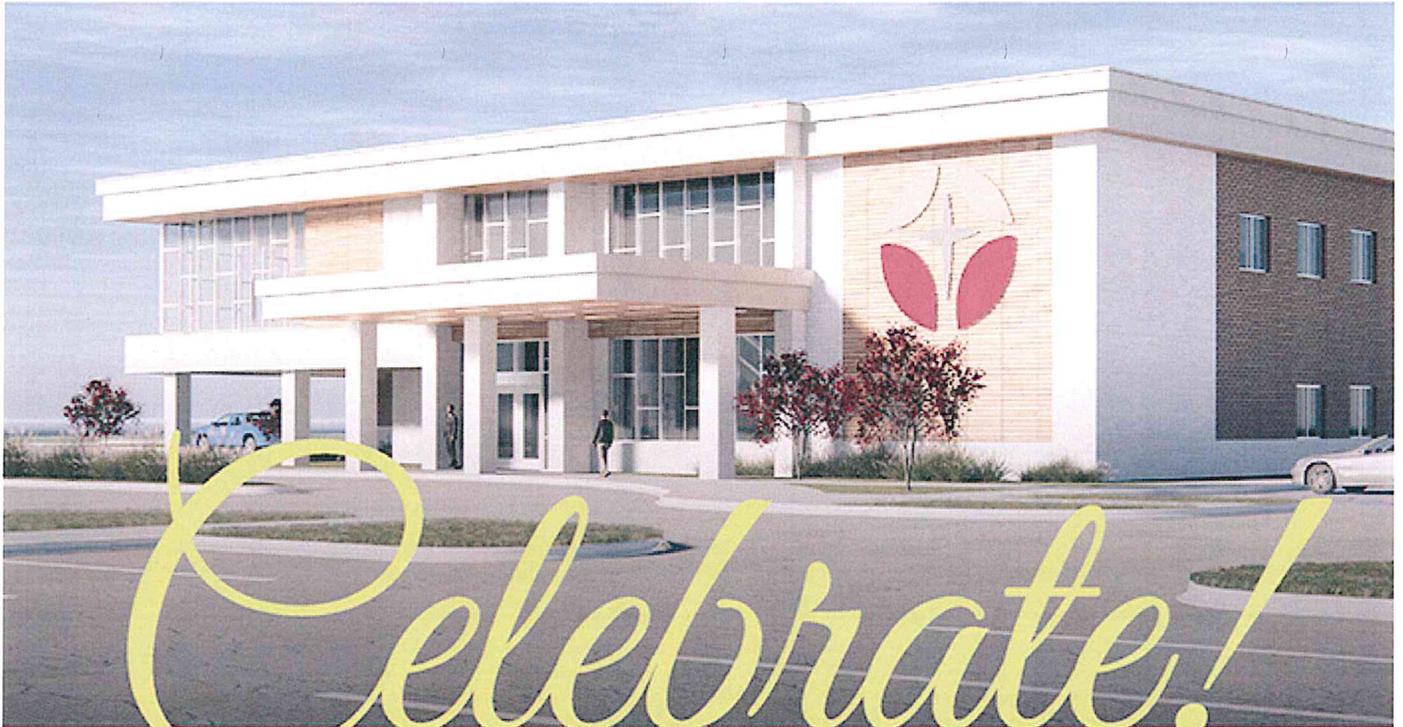
In a related matter, recent erosion along the south wall in the Mona Lake Channel has caused a portion of the channel to fill with sand. I have been informed by the Mona Lake Improvement Association that they plan to apply for a dredging permit in anticipation of the spring 2020 boating season. I will be writing a letter of support to EGLE on behalf of the City for approval of that permit.

Lastly, this week Lake Harbor Park experienced erosion along the north channel wall. A portion of the sidewalk leading to the beach is collapsing. The area has been closed to pedestrians, however, people can still access the beach through the dune walk. Staff has a contractor developing a plan to address the issue and, depending upon the cost, it will likely be treated as an emergency purchase.

6. Hemisphere Design Works Liquidation – As City Council has likely heard, Hemisphere Design Works (HDW) announced that it is in the process of closing two manufacturing facilities in Muskegon. Staff has known for some time that the company planned to move its location from Norton Shores to a new facility recently constructed in Muskegon. We have been speaking with company representatives about their clawback due to the City for a previously approved tax abatement. Now that the abatement has been transferred to a new company, a final invoice was sent to HDW in the amount of \$41,740.94. Depending upon the company's outcome, the disposition of the clawback may likely be subject to a court process.
7. Tri-Cities Area Habitat for Humanity Serves Southern Muskegon County – With Habitat for Humanity no longer having a presence in Muskegon county, the Tri-Cities Area (TCA) Habitat for Humanity has stepped in to serve a portion of the Muskegon area. The organization will serve Norton Shores, Fruitport Township and Village of Fruitport. Since being founded in 1989, TCA Habitat has built over sixty simple, decent and affordable homes through partnerships with churches, businesses and individuals. With the newly expanded territory the organization is looking for Muskegon area board members and I have accepted a position on the board. I look forward to learning more about affordable housing and advocating for those in need in Norton Shores and beyond.

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Attachments



Norton Shores Groundbreaking

Thursday, November 14

4:15 – 5:00 p.m.

3570 Henry Street

Norton Shores, MI 49441

Please join us at Norton Family Practice for refreshments
immediately following the groundbreaking

TOTAL
(Precinct + AV)

	Pct. 1	Pct. 2	Pct. 3	Pct. 4	Pct. 5	Pct. 6	Pct. 7	Pct. 8	Pct. 9	Pct. 10	Total
City of Norton Shores General Election											
City Council Ward I (2 seats)											
M. Kay Beecham	59	135	129	136	174						633
Rachel Cereska	57	98	126	95	137						513
Jason Flanders	43	107	122	132	151						555
City Council Ward II (2 seats)											
Cindy Jurkas						190	293	275	191	272	1,221
Write-in - Dan Olson						23	83	57	11	41	215
Write-in - Jamie Sowa						37	38	15	20	50	160
Total Voting	93	199	215	216	272	231	347	319	217	328	2,437
Total Registered	1824	1854	1816	1997	1950	1627	2034	2044	2320	2213	19,679
Percent Voting	5.10%	10.73%	11.84%	10.82%	13.95%	14.20%	17.06%	15.61%	9.35%	14.82%	12.38%

All results are unofficial. Write-in votes will be tallied by the Board of Canvassers starting Wednesday, November 6.