



Midland

At Your Service...

A Newsletter for the Citizens of the City of Midland

March 2000



Dear Citizens,

I am proud to share with you the City of Midland's 1998-99 annual report. This annual report serves as an opportunity for our community to reflect back on the many exciting events of the previous year.

Our most significant initiative has been the process to improve our sanitary sewer system.

Last summer we successfully negotiated a settlement of pending environmental enforcement actions from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) concerning sewage overflows.

Just last month, city voters approved a \$15.8 million bond issue that will almost double our sanitary sewer system's capacity to deal with heavy rainfall events. The implementation of this plan will be a major focus in 2000. In addition, we are planning to move forward and develop a plan to similarly improve our storm sewer system.

The City Council, staff and I appreciated the valuable public participation and input we received from concerned citizens during this process. It has definitely been a year of hard work and progress of which we can all be proud.

Other highlights from the past fiscal year include the city being named as Michigan's first Project Impact Community, the construction of the Bay City Road Interchange and the Trilogy Skate Park. I invite you to read more about these and other interesting and noteworthy accomplishments in this newsletter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the employees of the City of Midland whose hard work, innovation and commitment has allowed us to continually provide high quality services to our citizens. We all look forward to working together with you in the coming year to continue to make the Midland community a great place to live.

Sincerely,

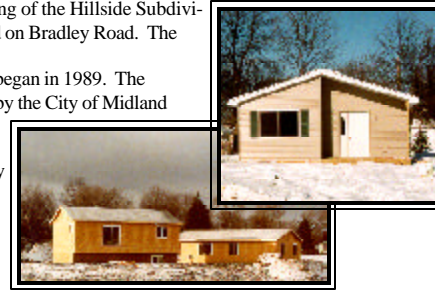
Karl S. Tomion, City Manager



The City Helps Fill Affordable Housing Needs

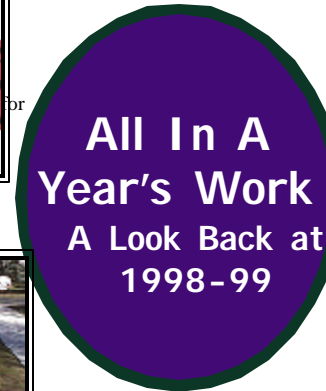
Midland's options for affordable housing received a big boost with the groundbreaking of the Hillside Subdivision. The City will construct 14 new CHOICE homes in the Hillside Subdivision, located on Bradley Road. The subdivision is expected to be complete by the spring of 2001.

Thirty-four CHOICE homes have been built in the City of Midland since the program began in 1989. The Creating Housing Options in Challenging Economies (CHOICE) program, administered by the City of Midland Planning Department, and with the assistance of many local and federal organizations, helps families afford the rising cost of purchasing a new home by providing down payment assistance to low and moderate income households on the purchase of a newly constructed or rehabilitated CHOICE home.



"Our Safety Is In Your Hands" Is An Award-Winning Campaign

Congratulations to the City's "Our Safety is in Your Hands" work zone safety campaign for receiving an "Outstanding Achievement" honorable mention by the Public Risk Management Association (PRIMA). The campaign was designed by City employees to create a safer working environment for those who work in the street right of way. The City was selected the prestigious national award at PRIMA's national meeting in June 1999.



Borrow-A-Truck to Borrow-A-Container

Converting the City's "Borrow-A-Truck" program to a "Borrow-A-Container" program has more than doubled the availability and significantly decreased the wait time for this very popular service. Instead of delivering a dump truck to your home, the new Borrow-A-Container program uses 4' x 6' containers, which are picked up, delivered and emptied by a single truck and a single driver. Additionally, several containers can be emptied into one truck before a trip to the landfill is made. The new system is significantly more efficient and the City can serve up to 10 residents per day, while the old system could only serve a maximum of four. Residents interested in the "Borrow-A-Container" program can contact the Department of Public Services, 835-2531.



Partners in Parks

A partnership with the Midland Public Schools resulted in an improved playground at Cook School and a new public park in the northwest section of Midland. Northwest Midland has badly needed more park area, so when the Cook School Parent Teacher Organization approached the City with a partnership opportunity, the City was happy to oblige. The City and School both agreed to contribute \$7,500 annually for the next three years to upgrade and enhance the playground and its equipment. The school district will install and maintain the equipment. The park presented a unique opportunity for the City and the school district to work together to meet the needs of our Midland community.



Midland Water Plant Upgrades its Operating Control System

New regulations and old equipment are just two of the reasons the Midland Water Treatment Plant installed a new state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. The new computerized control system allows pumps to be turned on and off with the point-and-click of a mouse (software), as opposed to a hardware "button" on the old panel. SCADA also replaces mechanical chart recorders drawing ink lines on circular paper, with a new system that automatically downloads data to large databases and self-generates daily and monthly reports for compliance.



**Getting to Midland will be even easier!
US-10/Bay City Road Interchange Construction Underway**

Major transformation is taking place at the new Bay City Road Interchange on Highway US-10. The City and Michigan Department of Transportation are forging ahead with this transformation which includes construction of new access ramps, a new Bay City Road bridge over US-10, and relocation of a 36-inch diameter water supply line that serves the City.



The new interchange will provide more efficient access to the city and will alleviate some of the congestion on Waldo Road. It also provides the infrastructure recommended in the city's Master Plan to increase and diversify our industrial base in the southeast section of our community.

Completion is expected in 2000 at a cost estimated at \$11.8 million dollars. The City will pay \$2.6 million, with the MDOT contributing \$2.2 million and the Federal Highway Administration funding \$7 million.



Trilogi Skatepark Becomes Reality

The City of Midland and the Midland Foundation worked together to create and open a premier skatepark facility that provides the growing number of skateboarders and in-line skaters a safer place to practice their sport. The Midland Foundation generously funded the construction of the park and donated it to the City for operation. A leading skatepark architect worked with local skaters to develop the design of the park. The 15,000 square foot skating facility is located in Chippewassee Park.



**City of Midland:
Proud to be Michigan's First Project Impact Community**

The City of Midland has been selected as one of 57 cities throughout the United States, and the lead city in the state of Michigan, to serve as a Project Impact pilot community. As a pilot community, Midland received a \$500,000 grant that is being used to prevent loss due to overland flooding and includes projects such as the City's new Open Drain Inspection and Maintenance program, the acquisition of flood plain property and community information campaigns. Project Impact, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is a national initiative that challenges communities to protect families, businesses and the community against the effects of natural disasters before they occur.



Lighting up the Night

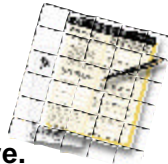
What do the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, Berryhill Post of the American Legion, Northwood University and the local foundations have in common? A new lighted baseball field, that's what. This all-star lineup hit a home run by developing a new community baseball complex that has the added benefit of lighting for nighttime games. Located on the campus of Northwood, the University provides evening use of the facility for community activities to the Berryhill baseball group and the City, who is responsible for scheduling and maintaining the field during the summer. The cost to provide lights was funded by generous donations from local foundations. Batter Up!



**The City Adds a
Third Access Channel**

The City of Midland's cable access service has grown. Last May the City expanded its service from two cable access stations to three. MCTV Channel 3 offers a variety of programs produced or submitted by members of our community while MGMTV Channel 5 now focuses on all government-related topics including City, County and Educational programming. MCTV Channel 15 is the place to watch for local activities on the community message board. Be sure to tune in!





**This is Your Future.
Don't Leave it Blank**

Wait! Don't throw that form away, it's not another piece of junk mail! It's Census 2000, so fill it out and send it in! Census forms were mailed to each household during the week of March 13. Census workers will go door to door to collect census forms that have not been returned beginning April 27.

Residents are encouraged to take a few minutes to fill out the form and place it promptly back in the mail. The short form is easy to read, simple to fill out and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. The primary goal of the Census Bureau is to gain an accurate population count of every resident of every household in the United States, including the City of Midland.

"The information gathered from Census 2000 has a direct effect on the Midland community. It affects the amount of federal and state funding that we receive, as well as decisions about education, health care and community programs. We are striving to achieve an accurate count of our population," said City of Midland Mayor Drummond Black, "City Council encourages all residents of Midland to fill out their form and be counted."

The Census Bureau guarantees that all answers on the census form are kept strictly confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share individual records with any other governmental agency, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military.

A large number of part-time positions with the Census Bureau team are still available in the Midland area. For more information, call 1-888-325-7733.

For questions about the Census 2000 form, contact the Midland County Census office (517) 633-0680.

Mark your Calendars

and plan to help the City of Midland with the 2000-01 budget

Here are some important dates to note:

- April 10 City Manager presents the 2000-01 Proposed Budget
- April 17 City Council Budget Study Session - General Fund
- April 24 Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget
- April 26 Second Budget Study Session - Other Funds
- May 8 Final Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget
- May 15 Budget Adoption
- July 1 2000-01 Budget Implemented

***** All meetings held at 7 p.m. in City Council Chambers *****

***** All meetings cablecast LIVE on MGTV 5 *****

Flood Insurance Information Available

Residents are reminded that the City of Midland participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. Flood insurance may be purchased through your insurance agent. This is of particular importance for those residents living within the flood hazard areas of the City. Please note that this flood insurance applies to damages from overland flooding only. For further information about your property and the location of flood hazard areas, or how to protect your property from flooding, contact the City Planning Department, 837-3374.

Interested in Serving on a City Board or Commission?

The City is filling positions on the following boards and commissions. If you are interested, please contact the City Manager's office at 837-3301 or look for more information on the City of Midland website www.midland-mi.org. Application deadline is April 28.

- ♦Aviation Advisory Commission
- ♦Board of Review
- ♦Dial-A-Ride Advisory Commission
- ♦Electrical Board of Appeals
- ♦Local Officers Compensation
- ♦Parks and Recreation Commission
- ♦Planning Commission
- ♦Plumbing Board of Appeals
- ♦Sewer District Board of Appeals
- ♦W. Main St. Historic District Comm.
- ♦Zoning Board of Appeals

At Your Service ...

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