

Building on Community

Together, we grow strong



A Message from *your City Manager*

Dear City Commission, Mt. Pleasant residents, property owners, and business community,

2014 was a transition year within the City of Mt. Pleasant organizational structure. I was able to serve as the Interim City Manager for seven months before being hired as the City Manager at the end of July. In spite of that uncertainty, our 120 City employees worked diligently to provide day to day services while continuing to move forward the nine vision statements set by the City Commission. This annual report is to provide you with an overview of some of the major accomplishments from 2014.

The annual operating budget includes specific objectives under each vision statement of what the City is planning for the year to move the vision statements forward. While it is difficult to report on every accomplishment that occurred in 2014, this report highlights a few of them.

The Planning Commission and City Commission completed and approved an update to the Master Plan in 2014. This important document not only identifies future land use, but also outlines priorities and strategies for the community. The Master Plan and the vision statements provide the outline for guiding programs and projects.

The State of Michigan and its individual municipalities have been dealing with difficult economic times the last 10 years. The City of Mt. Pleasant leadership made a conscious decision to continue to invest in our community to provide the day to day services expected by our residents as well as investing in appropriate projects and infrastructures to continue to move our City forward. That investment has paid off as the City weathered the challenging economy quite well.

I am very proud of the progress the City has made. Our programs and infrastructure are not perfect, but as a community we all work toward getting better each day. This report is intended to show some of the items that moved the community forward during 2014.

The following pages are divided into sections based on the nine vision statements set forth by the City Commission. As a city, we made progress during 2014 and we will continue to build on those successes as we move into 2015.

Sincerely,



Nancy Ridley
Mt. Pleasant City Manager



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We will work together toward being a community ...

That is safe, clean, healthy and environmentally conscious

New trees

Downtown Mt. Pleasant now has a variety of new trees in an effort to rid the area of dead or diseased Ash trees that were planted more than 15 years ago.

The trees planted in 2014 include Serviceberry, American Hop Hornbeam, Ivory Silk Japanese Lilac Tree, Princeton Gold Maple and Okame Cherry.

Bike safety



A number of biking symbols were added along West Broadway Street to help bring more awareness and safety to bikers who share the roadway.

The marking is placed in the center of a travel lane to indicate that a bicyclist may use the full lane. The City will add additional sharrow

symbols and signage on Washington and Main streets when they are converted to two-way traffic in 2015.



Police move to digital radio

The Mt. Pleasant Police Department has transitioned from analog radio to a more modern, digital, mission-critical, and interoperable Michigan Public Safety Communication System (MPSCS).

This statewide 800 MHz communication system is cutting edge, proven technology that meets the needs of Isabella County law enforcement and the residents and visitors they serve.

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Spotlight: The City's Master Plan

The City of Mt. Pleasant Master Plan is a policy document that outlines the City's vision for future growth and development. It was reviewed and adopted by the Planning Commission and City Commission in accordance with state law in November 2014 following a robust public involvement process and includes the following:

- Demographic information reflecting the 2010 U.S. Census;
- A continued focus on supporting new development and redevelopment of properties, as well as improved safety and access along Mission Street;
- Neighborhood priorities;
- Direction from various groups that support the development of Downtown;
- The future development of the Mt. Pleasant Center;
- Recommendations of the Greater Mt. Pleasant Non-Motorized Transportation Plan;
- Prioritized future ordinance amendments that support the planned development of the City.

• *View the Master Plan online: www.mt-pleasant.org*



A lighting project along Washington Street from High to Bellows was completed in 2014 after property owners in the area requested the addition. The project began in April and was completed May 1. The project totaled \$81,861 and was paid for with City tax dollars and special assessments from area property owners.

We will work together toward being a community ... With stable funding from a diverse tax-base

Reaching out to bring awareness...

During 2013 and 2014, the City conducted an extensive education campaign in regard to personal property tax law changes. This included the following:

- Explanation of changes sent with the Personal Property Tax Statement.
- Information posted on City website, www.mt-pleasant.org.
- Downtown Development Director sent e-mail to businesses.
- Article included in newsletters sent to all City addresses, not just residential.
- City staff made a presentation to the City Commission.
- A letter and exemption form was sent with the assessment notices to all taxpayers that qualified and didn't file for the exemption.

For the year of 2014:

There was a total of 1,352 personal property parcels in the City in 2014. Of that number, 547 filed the eligible personal property affidavit and were granted the personal property tax exemption for 2014. Personal property parcels includes items such as machinery and equipment, computers, furniture and so forth within a business.

These exemptions equated to about a \$4 million loss in taxable value to the City.

It is believed that an additional 271 parcels would have qualified for the tax exemption, but did not file the affidavit, and therefore could not be granted the exemption.

Michigan Department of Treasury
8076 (Rev. 10/14)

Parcel Number 2015

Affidavit of Owner of Eligible Personal Property

Claiming Exemption from Collection of Taxes (As of 12-31-2014)

Notice: Questions regarding this form should be directed to the assessor of the city or township where the personal property is located. This form was approved by the State Tax Commission on October 13, 2014 under the authority of Public Act 205 of 1993. This form must be filed by the owner or the owner's authorized agent.

Name and Address of Owner:

To claim an exemption, this Affidavit must be received by the Assessor no later than February 10, 2015.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This affidavit will exempt property owned only by the entity filing the affidavit. If personal property is leased to or used by an entity other than the property's owner, the owner of that personal property must file the affidavit for that property, not the lessee or the user. The owner may file the affidavit and claim the exemption only if the True Cash Value of all of the commercial or industrial personal property located within the city or township that is owned by, leased to, or in the possession of, the owner or a related entity was less than \$80,000 on December 31, 2014.

Name of Local Unit of Government		
City	Township	
List all addresses where Personal Property is located within the City or Township (may attach additional sheets)		
Name of Owner or Partners (if Sole Proprietorship or Partnership)		
County	Owner Telephone Number	Legal Name of Owner, if different from above
Assessed Names Used by Legal Entity, if any		
Description of Owner's Business Activity and NAICS Code		
Check only one: <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Co. (LLC) <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation (C or S) <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership		
Name and Telephone Number of Person in Charge of Personal Property Records	Address where Personal Property Records are kept	
Names of all other businesses owning personal property, including any seasonal establishments assessed as personal property at the locations included in this affidavit (attach additional sheets as necessary)		Date Business Began in Local Tax Collection Unit

The undersigned certifies that:

1. I am the owner of the commercial personal property and industrial personal property being claimed as exempt or I am the duly authorized agent.
2. The True Cash Value of all the Personal Property, as defined by Public Act 103 located within the city or township indicated above, that is owned by, leased to, or in the possession of the owner or related entity was less than \$80,000 on December 31, 2014.
3. Below are the procedures used to determine that the True Cash Value of the Eligible Personal Property was less than \$80,000 on December 31, 2014.



Spotlight: The Mt. Pleasant Center Project

Phase I of the Mt. Pleasant Center Project began in November 2013 and was finalized by spring 2014 despite inclement weather conditions. The work included the demolition of two buildings containing asbestos, lead-based paint and other contaminants.

House Bill No. 5779, introduced by Rep Bill Caul and signed into law in 2010, allowed the state to convey the Mt. Pleasant Center property to the City of Mt. Pleasant for \$1 and expenses. Two portions of the site were offered to the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe and one portion, known as the "main campus," to the City. After extensive research and community outreach, the City purchased the property in 2011 for the purpose of preparing it for future redevelopment.

"Phase I of the demolition was a tremendous success. Melching Demolition did an excellent job despite having to work through the brutal winter," said Ryan Londrigan, project manager for AKT Peerless Environmental and Energy Services. "Funding assistance from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and Michigan Land Bank Authority helped make the Phase 1 demolition and cleanup a reality."

The City hopes to begin a phase II demolition project in the near future. Darrick Huff, project manager with the Spicer Group, agrees.

"It's exciting to see the buildings along Pickard removed. It really opens up the site and gives it a new feel," Huff said. "There are still a number of blighted buildings that need to come down on the site. I think there are prospects to continue the removal that the city has started and we need to remain vigilant to funding opportunities as they present themselves."

In addition to City resources, some possible funding sources include the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality as well as other state and federal grants.



5 Before demolition

After clearing

We will work together toward being a community ...

Where economic opportunity for businesses offering competitive wages is readily available



New businesses

Mt. Pleasant saw growth in businesses and other changes in 2014

- A Clean Cigarette – Mt. Pleasant
- Cherry Berry & Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory
- Cranker's Brewery
- Dayco Products
- Inspired Concepts, LLC
- Pho Viet
- Pleasant City Coffee
- Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen

Name Change

Mountain Town Brewing Company
(Formerly Mt. Pleasant Brewing Company)
Bombay Grille (Formerly L1 Bar & Grill)

New Management

The Malt Shop

** Source: Mt. Pleasant Chamber of Commerce*



We will work together toward being a community ...

Where shopping, dining and entertaining options thrive



- Collaboration between the City of Mt. Pleasant and Central Michigan University led to increased safety and access for city residents, visitors and the campus community, especially when utilizing one of Mt. Pleasant's most traveled roads with more than 50 businesses on either side.
- A new connector street, Olympic Drive, opened in October, creating another connection between CMU's campus and Mission Street. The new street runs east and west between the Special Olympics Michigan building and Chippewa Lanes connecting East Campus Drive to Mission Street.
- Ian Lockwood, a recognized national leader in sustainable transportation policy and urban design, led the creation of a plan for the city that adds a network between CMU's campus, the City and the south end of Mission Street.
- The plan included a series of proposed design ideas, including altering the street network, looking for public and private partnerships, cross-access agreements, developing a series of connector streets and driveways along Mission Street.



The Max & Emily's Summer Concert Series began with a vision of owner Tim Brockman and General Manager Chris "Elmo" Walton back in the fall of 2008. The 2014 season included Brian Vander Ark & Friends, The Kruger Brothers, Shubha Vedula, The Saucecats and The Ragbirds.



Hundreds of women lined up outside of Broadway Theater in anticipation for the ninth annual Ladies Night Out.

Ladies Night Out has become a popular charity event. Proceeds benefit the Women's Aid Service, which provides emergency shelter and counseling for women through a call center hotline, and personal and group therapy. The evening also supports the Women's Initiative Fund, through the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation, which helps provide for the needs of women.

We will work together toward being a community ... With varied recreational and cultural opportunities

Healthy and affordable options

The Mt. Pleasant Farmers' Market strives to make healthy, locally grown food an affordable option for everyone. The addition of SNAP/Bridge Card and Double Up Food Bucks is making a difference.

During the 2014 market season, 412 transactions totaling \$11,571 in tokens were disbursed to 199 participants. An additional \$12,912 was redeemed from vendors for WIC Project Fresh and Senior Market Fresh programs, and 24 vendors signed agreements and redeemed tokens and vouchers totaling nearly \$23,500.

New recreation programs in 2014

Flag football for youth ages 5 to 7: Met with great popularity, 82 participants on eight teams played games Saturday mornings last fall at Sunnyside Park.

Winter Kids Expo: Held in Finch Fieldhouse at CMU with 747 participants. In partnership with My 104.3 WCZY, the event featured free games, physical activity, refreshments and prizes.

Science Explosion: In partnership with Chippewa River District Library (CRDL), Mt. Pleasant Model Plane Club displayed and flew model planes. Master Gardeners, Plate Boutique and GreenTree hosted demonstrations on the science of herbs. Joel the Science Guy also performed amid many other activities.

Off to the Races: Another successful partnership with CRDL. Area businesses sponsored the event and decorated and raced remote control cars. After the race, kids played and the cars were raffled off as prizes. That same night, the movie CARS was shown as a free outdoor movie.

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New LED lights that have a longer lifespan and reduce maintenance were added to park shelters. Additional lights were installed to create a more illuminated area.



The Access Adventure Trail, which winds its way through the south end of Chipp-A-Waters Park, is a universally accessible trail that promotes healthy lifestyles and highlights one of Mt. Pleasant's most scenic natural resources.

This trail has an educational component with nature interpretation signs informing visitors of the wildlife and landscape features of the Chippewa River.

Using a smart phone, park visitors scan QR codes on park signs to hear a guided tour. Audio clips educate and entertain on environmental topics including: the river, birds, trees, mammals, floodplains, forest layers, oxbow and humans. The audio tour is also available at www.mt-pleasant.org.



Extensive play along with extreme spring flooding in 2014, led to the ball fields at Island Park losing much of their infield playing surface.

The ball field project included adding a new mechanically engineered ball field mix to the existing stone dust material. In addition, the fields were leveled to correct surface drainage, and two new dugouts were installed. Clay bricks were also added to the pitching mounds and batters boxes.



We will work together toward being a community ...

With well maintained, livable and desirable neighborhoods



Trial: Overnight Parking hours

After an evaluation of weather conditions and street cleaning practices, the City Commission approved a trial period for the 2014-15 season to consider a potential change to the overnight parking ordinance. During this trial phase, City parking along non-downtown streets was prohibited from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. Dec. 1 to April 1.

In the past, parking was limited from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. Sept. 1 to May 1. Based on the outcome of the trial, the commission will decide whether a permanent change should be implemented. Prohibition of parking from 4 a.m. to 6 a.m. in the downtown area will continue to be enforced.

Spotlight: Residential Parking Pilot Study

Enforcement began in September 2014 on the pilot study aimed to reduce unnecessary traffic through residential neighborhoods and decrease daytime on-street parking.

On-street parking regulations in the target areas are restricted to residents only between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. The two areas participating in the program include residential neighborhoods west of CMU's campus and neighborhoods between High and Bellows and Fancher to Douglas streets, north of campus.

Property owners who use on-street parking during this time frame applied to the Department of Building Safety at City Hall for a free window decal for personal vehicles or guest passes for visitors.

"We've witnessed a remarkable difference in congestion in these particular areas of the City," said Brian Kench of the City's Community Services Division. A review of the pilot program will occur in May 2015 and recommendations will be made regarding whether to make the changes permanent.

Before study



After study





"There is a strong pride that exists in each neighborhood. It's our goal for residents to be safe while value is maintained. We have common goals. It's not our goal to be just an enforcement group...we want to be a resource to the community."

-Fire Lt. Mike Dunham



Neighborhood Resource Unit

Who we are:

The Neighborhood Resource Unit, a team comprised of many City departments, works diligently to maintain property value in both owner-occupied and rental properties. Led by Fire Lt. Mike Dunham, the effort aims to increase the safety and upkeep of neighborhoods while making sure landlords are up to date on code regulations and other communications.

Our unit:

Community partnerships are vital to the NRU. We hold regular meetings and outreach with the rental community, Central Michigan University and Mid-Michigan Community College. The unit has a list of ongoing duties including handling rental complaints, housing code inspections and enforcement, and commercial inspections.

What we do:

The unit also investigates new community-oriented programs, revamps existing programs, and works closely with neighborhood associations identifying methods to address issues in neighborhoods to prevent areas from declining.

"We're out in the community every day. We meet with residents and students to share information and resources, not only to get our message out, but to hear their concerns as well."

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Contact us:

Fire Lt. Mike Dunham
(989) 779-5123
mdunham@mt-pleasant.org

We will work together toward being a community ...
With reliable and sustainable infrastructure



Various construction projects took place throughout the City in 2014 including the following:

Broadway Street: Crawford Contracting, Inc. completed reconstruction work on Broadway Street, between Bradley and Harris streets. The water main was replaced and a shared bike lane and signage was incorporated.

Franklin Street: Street reconstruction included a new curb and gutter. Central Michigan Contracting completed the work.

Center Street: Street reconstruction included a new curb and gutter. Malley Construction oversaw the project.

Pedestrian Streetlights: The pedestrian streetlight installation project on Washington Street, between Bellows and High streets, was completed by J. Ranck Electric.

Sidewalk (new and replacement): Isabella Corporation installed new sidewalk to fill gaps in the existing walking routes throughout the City.

Asphalt Crack Sealing: Scodeller Construction applied crack sealing to various City streets. This is a preventative maintenance process.

Sewer Main Relining: This project, which consisted of relining sanitary sewer mains in various locations throughout the City, was completed by Insituform Technologies. Relining of a number of failing concrete sanitary sewers is planned each year to maintain the integrity of the collection system.

Manhole Rehabilitation: The storm manhole rehabilitation project is an annual improvement project. This method improves the structural integrity and longevity of the manholes at a much lower cost than replacement. This work was completed by Culy Contracting.

Mission Street Connector: Malley Construction completed work on the Mission Street Connector to East Campus Drive. The project is located between the Special Olympics building and Chippewa Lanes.

Storm and Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Televising: Terra Contracting began televising and cleaning sewer mains. Most sanitary and storm sewer mains installed or rehabilitated prior to 1993, were televised through this project, which is scheduled for completion by Dec. 31, 2015. This was made possible by a \$2 million grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Spotlight:

Projects and community involvement

'Greeks Clean the Streets'



Central Michigan University's Greek community and the City of Mt. Pleasant partnered for several successful street cleanups in 2014.

Jeff Pickler, code enforcement officer for the City of Mt. Pleasant, organizes "Greeks Clean the Streets." Students and City staff met several times during the academic year and collected more than 100 bags of trash from campus neighborhoods.

The street cleanup program was developed to beautify the streets and maintain a healthy community. The partnership between the two organizations has grown since its beginning in 2012 and allows students to create a positive relationship and partnership with the City's code enforcement, police department and neighborhoods.



Construction preparation work took place in 2014 for the first dog park, which will be named Hannah's Bark Park, in honor of Hannah Simons-Scalise, a deceased CMU student who had a last wish to create a place where people can run with their dogs.

The City, Union Township and Friends of the Dog Park teamed up in 2013 in order to make the dog park dream a reality. The total cost to build the park is \$117,600, which will be split three ways, with each entity committing \$39,200 to the project.

The dog park plan calls for two fenced areas totaling nearly three acres and includes an area for small dogs and large dogs to run off leash. An entry gate and a key fob system are planned to keep both park users and their pets safe. The park will be located at the City's Mission Creek Woodland Park with signage, hard surface entry and universally accessible parking. The project is expected to be complete by fall 2015.

Neighborhood streets

Asphalt overlays

The overlays are a maintenance and preservation technique used to restore deteriorated pavement surfaces. Pyramid Paving Company applied an asphalt overlay to the following City streets:

- Bruce: Henry to Harris
- Cooley: Broadway to dead end
- Pennsylvania: Henry to Harris
- Roberts: Henry to Harris
- Kinney: Andre to High
- Glen: Preston to Crescent
- Sansote: May to dead end
- Arnold: Gaylord to Bellows
- Michigan: Bradley to dead end



We will work together toward being a community ...

Where services and opportunities are optimized by communicating, coordinating and cooperating with other entities and our citizens; Committed to recognizing, accepting and encouraging diversity.

Happy 125th Birthday, Mt. Pleasant!

The City of Mt. Pleasant celebrated 125 years. Many residents stopped downtown to sample one of 125 cupcakes provided by Crème de la Crème Cupcakes, located downtown.

Thank you to all who celebrated with us!



Indigenous Peoples' Day

In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day (also known as Native American Day), a proclamation was formalized at a City Commission meeting in October. Members of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe attended the meeting and performed a drum ceremony.



Our Sister City: Okaya, Japan

In anticipation of the 50th anniversary of the Sister City relationship with Okaya, Japan, 18 adult delegates from Okaya visited Mt. Pleasant in April of 2014. The official 50th anniversary occurs in 2015.

The delegates offered a gift of a silk wall hanging to the City, which is now displayed in City Hall Chambers.

The delegates were recognized at the City Commission meeting during their visit. An updated mural painted by a CMU student of the Sister City relationship was also unveiled at the Mt. Pleasant Discovery Museum. A delegation of adults from our community will visit Okaya in 2015.

The Sister City relationship between Mt. Pleasant and Okaya, established in 1965, has been enriched by many reciprocal exchanges of students and adult contingencies. The Mt. Pleasant Area International Relations Council (IRC) coordinates student exchanges and the Sister City Task Force, in coordination with the IRC, organized the 50th anniversary visits.



City of Mt. Pleasant

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