

DDA District Property Owners:

The Downtown Development Authority projects are as follows. Several projects were begun in 2024 and are being continued in 2025. They are funded with Tax Increment Finance funds (TIF).

The bulletin board in Memorial Park will be completed with a display of over 1,400 names of veterans who have served our country. We will coordinate a dedication ceremony with the American Legion at a later date. The area around the base will be an extension of the cement core so everyone can safely and easily walk around the structure. A special thank you to *Michael Tornow* who designed this structure and *Mark Magee* who, along with his crew, built it. We also thank *Vintage Printing* for the veteran layout; muted flag backgrounds of waterproof material came from the *Copy Shop* in Traverse City; plus assistance from *American Legion Post 219*, especially *Tom Freiwald* and *Greg Samp* who worked with *Linda Forwerck* to ensure all veterans have been recognized. **\$7,000 funded by the DDA.**

A new welcome sign will replace the sign just east of U.S. 131. This sign was designed by local talent, *Nature Pauses, Van's Lane*. This will be an especially beautiful sign with carvings plus a copper roof similar to the bulletin board roof. Thank you to *Gary Blaszak* for overseeing this project. **\$22,000 funded by the DDA**

The wayfinding signs in the village will be repainted to echo the colorful wayfinding sign display out by U.S. 131. This is being done by the original wayfinding sign designer, *Monumental Tasks (John Kelley)*. Total cost of both segments of updating wayfinding signs. **\$8,000 Funded by the DDA.**

Winter Banners were purchased in the fall of 2024, unfortunately all banners were not able to be put up before winter hit. They will be put up in November of this year. *Donks Design of Cadillac (Skylar Gifford, a Fife Lake guy)* made banners. **\$2,000 funded by DDA**

A total of eleven benches will be placed along State Street (7) and one on Pierce Street in strategic locations, plus 3 in Pierce Street Park. Eight Benches were sold for a gain of \$3,200 which along with the plaque sales gain of \$1,540 gave us a reduction in cost of \$4,740. We thank the families who will have a donor name plate on 'their' bench. This is the same way street lamp donors were recognized. Coordination by *Kris Benke* and *Linda Forwerck*. Purchased from *Play Environments Design out of Holland*. Actual cost with cement bases \$13,000. **\$8,300 funded by the DDA.**

Streetlamp plaques have been placed on streetlamps from Fife Lake Area Park to U.S. 131. Local families and businesses are recognized on plaques at the bases of the street lamps. Donations from eleven new donors = \$3,300. Plaques were \$1,760 for new and replacement plaques. Remaining funds of \$1,540 were transferred to Bench fund. We thank all donors past and present. *Trophy Trolley made plaques.* Actual cost \$1,760. **\$0 cost to the DDA.**

New street trees were planted. Tree guards will be placed around the new trees and irrigation systems will be replaced where needed. Thank you to *Kris Benke* for overseeing this project. Trees purchased from *Barker Creek*. **\$4,000 funded by the DDA.**

The playground equipment in Fife Lake Area Park will be upgraded with a new slide and new swings. Purchased from *Play Environments Design out of Holland*. Donations received from *FAFCU (\$1,000)*, *Springfield Township (\$2,500)* and *Union Township (\$1,000)* = \$4,500. We thank *Alice Aldridge* for her pursuit of outside funds for this project; and *Alice and Kris* for coordinating the project. Pursuit of outside funds and grants continues to fund improvements to the playground equipment. **\$45,000 funded by DDA, plus new donations and grants.**

The removal of the top layer of retaining wall blocks and replacement with new blocks will be done by *Lakeside Landscaping Team (Dayne Sloat)*. To finalize this project, power washing and sealing of the blocks, by *Priority Power Washing (Austin Eisenga)*. **\$20,000 funded by DDA.**

A walkway will be put in going up to the historic fire barn which is on village property. This will be a *project of the Historical Society*. **\$2,500 to pay toward construction bill by the DDA.**

A façade incentive grant program will begin to encourage DDA District business owners to enhance the front of their buildings. This grant program was borrowed from Mancelona, which has also been utilized by Boyne City and Petoskey. Grant limit up to \$5,000 per business which requires a 50% match, and is a reimbursable grant. *Façade committee members are Alice Aldridge, Kristine Benke, Stan Patrick, and Larry Johnson, along with Fife Lake property owner Richard Scappatura as their design consultant.* **\$25,000 funded by the DDA.**

The DDA is making an approximate \$146,000 investment in the above projects. ***These projects are being financed by the Downtown Development Authority with Tax Increment Finance Funds that are captured to make improvements to the DDA District. These projects are outlined in the Updated 2024 DDA Tax Increment Finance Plan. Visit our website at FifeLakeDDA.org for more information.***