

DDA shows much progress in its New Year Report

Every year the Clinton Township Gratiot Downtown Development Authority prepares its new budget and a progress report for the township's Board of Trustees.

In January the DDA presented a roundup of the 2008 activities as well as its vision for the coming year.

This edition of the Avenue briefly describes some of those items most relevant to the future of the Gratiot corridor.

Corridor makes progress, but a lot of work remains ahead
Landscaping, bus stops, lights top 2008/09 agenda

Gratiot Corners Landscaping

Work in the summer and fall of 2008 completed the installation of significant landscaping features along the median of the Gratiot Corridor. Landscap-

"...the DDA saved more than \$20,000 on this project through the competitive bidding process."

ing was installed at the 14 Mile Road, 15 Mile Road and the Metropolitan Parkway intersections as well as the Quinn Road turnaround and half mile roads.

The DDA allocated \$180,000 toward the project, but through competitive bidding the project was completed for approximately \$160,000. The landscaping project includes some of the best practices in terms of environmentally friendly and native habitat selection. The use of a wide

variety of native Michigan species will in the future require very little irrigation.

These plants were also selected because they do

Gateway Entry Sign

Messages for the DDA Gateway sign at 14 Mile Road are electronically sent from the township's



The DDA regularly recognizes business redevelopments, grand openings and achievements such as this remodeling project at Sargent Appliance on Gratiot at 15 1/2 Mile Road.

well in the ground and weather conditions found in the state. They are very resistant to most pests and diseases.

Maintenance of the grassy areas along the corridor is conducted by the township's Department of Public Works under an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Planning and Community Development Department.

In addition to providing a method to display messages from the community, the sign can display Amber Alerts and other emergency information. The sign also carries messages about the DDA business community.

The Avenue

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A PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AND THE GRATIOT BUSINESS OWNERS ASSOCIATION

A quick cut

A new 'Film Gratiot Website'

A special website is now under development to help attract movie makers to the DDA area. Special tax incentives enacted by the state a year ago has already resulted in \$175 million in new business for Michigan.

The DDA contains locations that might interest movie productions. These include office sites close to Lake St. Clair and a variety of period home sites. Film DDA will be found on the DDA website at by going to: www.gratiotinclinton.com

Signatures still being sought for Lighting District Approval

New LEDs will light up Avenue while saving energy

In the past six months the DDA has investigated the cost benefits of installing energy conserving LEDs along the Gratiot median instead of the more traditional high pressure sodium lights. Though the initial construction costs will be greater, savings on energy consumption and maintenance would offset the higher installation cost in about five or six years.

The DDA has already approved the installation of lights along Gratiot from 14 Mile Road to north of Metropolitan Parkway. A total of 83 poles with 166 lights would be installed.

Signatures are now being collected from property owners along the strip. To date, property owners of more than 42 percent of the lineal feet along Gratiot have approved the program. The SAD requires more than 50 percent approval. The street lighting program is the single biggest and most needed improvement to better business conditions and safety in the corridor.

Volunteers gather to clean-up Gratiot



Local volunteers donate their time on 3 weekends a year to help clean-up the Gratiot corridor. To volunteer call Donna Sassin at 586-751-3783.

New bus shelters, benches and trash receptacles an ongoing project



A new bus shelter will be installed at Farmers Market this winter.

Four new SMART bus shelters were added in 2008 along with 13 shelter pads for future installations. Five new shelters have been ordered for installation during the first quarter of 2009. Trash receptacles and benches are also being added as funds become available. SMART buses now have trash receptacles so riders can dispose of drinks and food wrappers while boarding. Trash receptacles along Gratiot are emptied on a regular basis under contract with the DDA.