



DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Baldwin DDA Announces Downtown Visioning Project

*Opportunities for public input on downtown redevelopment kicked off during Troutarama, following record-crowd at DDA Public Input Meeting held in March.
Community Open House to be held August 30*

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BALDWIN, MI (August 10, 2023): The Village of Baldwin’s Downtown Development Authority (DDA) announced it is moving forward with Phase 1 of its development plan to improve a blighted, vacant area in the Village and create a more vibrant gateway to the community. Input provided during a public input record-setting meeting held March 28, 2023 was instrumental in setting the timeline for Phase 1, as well as establishing methods to continue to engage and inform the community.

“The DDA is most grateful to those who joined us in March to discuss the opportunity to create a public gathering space on the 902 Michigan Avenue site,” noted DDA Chair Jane Allison. “As with any successful development project, it is critical throughout the process to involve those living, working and visiting our community.”

Phase 1 of the DDA Development Plans includes:

- **Launch of Visioning Plan:** The Village of Baldwin’s DDA officially launched its Downtown Visioning project on Saturday, July 22, during Troutarama. Progressive AE, the professional planning firm selected to lead the project, will work with Baldwin residents, businesses, visitors, stakeholders and village officials throughout the process and will report findings to the public by year end. Downtown Baldwin stakeholders are asked to please provide input using the online survey at: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7412339/Baldwin-Community-Survey> or by scanning the QR code.



Surveys should be completed by August 26, 2023.

- Baldwin residents, guests business owners and stakeholders are also encouraged to participate in a number of community engagement opportunities this summer and fall. Upcoming events include:

- **August 30, 2023, 6-8 pm: COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE**, Pere Marquette Room at Pompeii's Pizza, [751 Michigan Ave, Baldwin, MI 49304](https://www.google.com/maps/place/751+Michigan+Ave,+Baldwin,+MI+49304).
Stop by anytime and provide input on – generally takes 10-15 minutes – and enter for a chance to win prizes.
 - **Community focus groups** will be held with area businesses, institutions and public entities, community groups and service agencies, and seasonal business and residents in mid-September.
 - **Additional pop-up events** will be held in late August – similar to the event at the August 9 Wenger Pavillion during the Sounds of Summer concert series. (photos attached).
 - **Additional details** are being shared through the **Let's Talk Baldwin** Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/baldwindda?mibextid=ZbWKwL>) and posted on the Village of Baldwin's website. (<https://villageofbaldwin.org/projects/>).
- The Baldwin DDA received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding through Lake County to create a catalytic vision that will spur investment, community involvement, and civic pride. The goal is to capitalize on the area's natural and recreational amenities while creating a more vibrant downtown Baldwin.
 - **Demolition and environmental cleanup of 902 Michigan.** This property is located south of Brown Trout Sculpture Park, the Pere Marquette Trail and east of M-37 and the Lake County Historical Museum. It is currently vacant and condemned. The demolition and cleanup project will be funded by a Michigan Land Bank Blight Elimination grant through Lake County's Land Bank. Environmental assessment work is complete and demolition work will begin this fall.
 - **902 Michigan short-term use:** Convert property to green space where residents and guests may enjoy outside tables/benches and yard games, with easy sidewalk access to Sculpture Park, Pere Marquette Trail, Village sidewalks, and the reconstructed East Eighth Street Bridge.
 - **Ongoing evaluation of potential grants** to support downtown projects recommended through the Visioning process.

To learn more about the work of the Baldwin DDA, visit <https://villageofbaldwin.org/projects/> or contact a DDA Board member.

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