

**From:** [Dawn Anderson-Meier](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Continuing Outdoor Dining in Douglas  
**Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025 5:40:55 PM

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I am writing to express my strong support for continuing the ordinance that allows sidewalk easements and pop-up patios in Douglas. Outdoor dining is an essential part of the vibrant, welcoming atmosphere that makes our community special, and it is crucial to ensure that businesses like Happystance can continue offering this experience.

Happystance's outdoor dining space enhances the charm of downtown, providing a lively gathering place for residents and visitors alike. Not only does it contribute to the city's economy by attracting more patrons, but it also fosters a stronger sense of community by encouraging people to spend more time in Douglas. Maintaining this ordinance supports local businesses, increases foot traffic for nearby shops, and aligns with the broader movement toward more engaging, pedestrian-friendly spaces.

I encourage you to continue allowing sidewalk easements and pop-up patios to ensure that Douglas remains a thriving destination for all. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Dawn Anderson-Meier

**From:** [Brad Mulvihill](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Douglas Pop-Up Patio  
**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 5:29:40 PM

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I am writing to express my support for pop-up patios in Douglas.

Brad Mulvihill

**From:** [Michelene Alexa](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Easement/Pop Up Patio Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:48:14 AM

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Douglas City Council,

I am writing to formally request the reinstatement of the ordinance that permitted the establishment of easement and pop-up patios in our beloved village. During the period when this ordinance was in effect, I greatly enjoyed dining al fresco at local establishments, particularly at Happystance and EPC. The ability to comfortably enjoy breakfast, lunch, or dinner outdoors not only enhanced my dining experiences but also contributed positively to the atmosphere and vibrancy of our community. I am concerned that not renewing this ordinance will adversely affect local businesses in Douglas as it limits their ability to offer an appealing outdoor dining option. This service has proven beneficial not only for patrons but also for the economic health of our local businesses. I urge the council to reconsider and reinstate the ordinance to support our thriving community and its dedicated businesses. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Best Regards,  
Michelene Alexa  
471 Amity Lane  
Douglas, Mi 49406  
773-484-9118

**From:** [Debbie Wells](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Eating outside  
**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 2:01:17 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I urge you to consider to continue to allow residents and visitors to enjoy patio dining and enjoyment. It's a wonderful addition to an already beautiful city. I am from out of town and specifically visit Douglas for that experience. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
An Avid Outdoor Diner

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ellen Shook](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Happy yellow umbrellas please  
**Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025 5:39:13 PM

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Hello there,

Please renew the special ordinance or whatever is needed for Katie at HappyStance to have her happy yellow umbrella tables out this summer. It was such a delight to sit there and enjoy the great food and people watching. Anything like this is such a draw to the town and people cannot wait for this to happen again. Katie deserves any good attention we can give her... she and her staff work extra hard for all of us!

Thanks so much,  
Ellen / Saugatuck Twp.

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Pulick, Karen A - Xylem](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Happystance Outdoor dining  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:11:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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I am writing to ask that the City adopt the sidewalk easements/pop up patios for 2025. The yellow umbrellas and seating area for Happystance brought a wonderful vibe to the city, and hopefully they will be able to continue to brighten it again for upcoming years.

Karen Pulick  
554 Artisan Row Ct  
Douglas MI  
49406



**Karen Pulick** (she/her/hers)

Director IT ERP Operational Finance

m: +1 616 554 5974

o: +1 616 748 7603

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**From:** [Kara O'Connor](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Happystance Outdoor Seating  
**Date:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 5:07:05 PM

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Hello,

I am writing in support of the outdoor seating space at Happystance.....please consider allowing the outdoor space to continue to exist. It is a beautiful and joyful addition to downtown Douglas. It would also be hurtful to the business to remove the outdoor seating area, as it is obviously an attractive option for diners.

Thank you,  
Kara O'Connor

**From:** [Pat Ashbrook](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** HappyStance Restaurant in Douglas  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 12:07:55 PM

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Hello...I am writing to you because I saw a post saying a Douglas ordinance, allowing sidewalk easements/pop up patios came to an end. Please continue to allow this to happen in Douglas. We love the bright, cheerful yellow umbrellas that are outside of the HappyStance Restaurant. We love them when we are driving by, we love to eat outside under the umbrellas in good weather too. Please DO NOT restrict business owners from any improvements they may do to bring paying visitors to your town. I have never been to that restaurant when no one is outside eating, even on the hottest days. It gives people with dogs on a leash to enjoy an outside sitting area and enjoy great food at the same time. Look around your surrounding cities ie: Fennville, Saugatuck, South Haven. They ALL have outside seating places. Please keep this ordinance active again and allow any businesses in your community to let people enjoy our great MI weather. Thank you for taking this into consideration.

A fan of outside eating...

Pat



**From:** [vid1987@aol.com](mailto:vid1987@aol.com)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Happystance Sidewalk Easement  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:38:33 AM

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February 20, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my understanding that the temporary ordinance in Douglas allowing sidewalk easements/pop up patios came to an end for Happstance Restaurant. I just want to state my support of this restaurant which brought so many people into the town of Douglas. The tables and umbrellas are in good taste and, in my opinion, do not interfere with traffic on the sidewalk. Please allow this outdoor eating area for the restaurant to continue.

Victor DiMercurio  
454 Amity

**From:** [Maria Belmonte](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** In support of outdoor dining  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:35:52 PM

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Dear Douglas Officials:

I am a part-time resident of the area. I know you are reconsidering out door dining. As a someone who frequent Douglas I love the charm and character of sitting outside, having breakfast or coffee and watching your beautiful little town come to life in the summer mornings! Please don't take that away!!!! It's a great attraction and also gives your restaurants additional revenue opportunities during season. I vote to keep it going—please consider!!!! It's a great selling point for the town and delightful to be able to enjoy the scenery!! Thanks,

Maria Belmonte

Sagautuck Township part-time resident

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kevin and Sarah Coastal Living Advisors](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** In support of Sidewalk Easements/Pop up Patios  
**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 11:03:17 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing to let you know that we are in support of the sidewalk easements and pop up patios in the business district of Downtown Douglas. Being building owners ourselves with the purchase of 150 W Center St, Douglas last year, we were thrilled to see people dining al fresco, sitting outside enjoying coffee with family/friends. This is just what our community needs and we would hate to see it go away. We look forward to seeing the happy umbrellas in front of Happy Stance, the people sitting in front of Respite enjoying their morning cup of coffee. Please consider keeping the sidewalk easements and pop up patios in place this coming season.

Kind regards,

Sarah Wellman

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Kevin Putnam and Sarah Wellman

Number: (586)524-3462

Email: [KevinandSarah@CoastalLivingAdvisors.com](mailto:KevinandSarah@CoastalLivingAdvisors.com)

Website: [www.CoastalLivingAdvisors.com](http://www.CoastalLivingAdvisors.com)

Visit and Like our "Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn" via our Website.

**From:** [Ashley Siebelink](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Letter to Council: Sidewalk Easements  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:03:10 PM

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Dear Douglas City Council,

I hope that you're all doing well. I am writing to express my support for the continuation of the sidewalk easements and pop-up patios in Downtown Douglas. As a Douglas resident and frequent visitor to the downtown area, I have found these outdoor spaces to be a delightful addition to our community.

The pop-up patios not only brought joy to my personal experience but also significantly contributed to the tourist experience. They created a welcoming atmosphere, offering a charming way to enjoy our beautiful weather, while also supporting local businesses.

I kindly ask the City Council to consider continuing the allowance of sidewalk easements and pop-up patios this year. These spaces have proven to be an asset to our town and have fostered a sense of community that we would love to see continue.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ashley Siebelink 320 Blue Star Hwy, Unit 28 Douglas, MI 49406

**Ashley Siebelink**

Project Coordinator

**Saugatuck Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau**

95 Blue Star Highway, Douglas MI 49406

P.O. Box 28, Saugatuck, Michigan 49453

269-857-1701 (O)

**From:** [Scott Maxwell](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:24:19 PM

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Please consider adopting the ordinance, perhaps making it permanent, to allow seating on the sidewalks as long as the responsibility of maintaining the space is that of the business and not the city.

Cheers!

M. Scott Maxwell  
Black River Tavern & The River Bottom  
403 Phoenix St.  
South Haven, MI 49090

**From:** [Sherri Austin](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Outdoor seating in Douglas  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 11:49:33 AM

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Dear Douglas City Council,

I am writing to formally request the reinstatement of the ordinance allowing sidewalk easements and pop-up patios in our community. The availability of outdoor dining options greatly enhances the vibrancy and attractiveness of our town, providing numerous benefits to residents, visitors, and local businesses alike.

Outdoor dining has become an essential part of our community's charm. It offers patrons the unique experience of enjoying their meals al fresco, surrounded by the beauty of our town and allows extra business for our downtown. This ordinance is vital for the economic well being of our restaurants and the social well-being of our community.

One of the most delightful aspects of our town is the ability to dine on the sidewalk patios of local establishments such as Happystance and EPC. These pop-up patios have become beloved spots for both locals and visitors, offering a charming and relaxed atmosphere that is truly unique. The ability to dine outdoors has not only improved the dining experience but has also encouraged more foot traffic and tourism, benefiting the entire community.

Reinstating this ordinance would demonstrate your commitment to supporting local businesses and promoting a vibrant community life. It would provide these businesses with the opportunity to continue offering exceptional dining experiences while contributing to the economic growth of our town. Moreover, it would allow residents and visitors to continue enjoying the picturesque views and pleasant weather that make our town so special.

Please help local businesses thrive and reinstate this ordinance, ensuring that our town remains a welcoming and enjoyable place for all.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sherri Austin

469 Amity Lane

**From:** [Bob Rautenberg](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Outdoor seating  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:32:04 PM

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To whom it may concern, I believe that the outdoor seating at restaurants in the downtown area is a wonderful thing and should be renewed. My wife and I truly enjoy dining outside at both Happystance and Every Day People. To drive down Center St and see the happy faces sitting outside is a very nice and looks very inviting to those passing by and looking for a nice place to eat. I believe it is more of a he'll than a hindrance to the downtown community. Thank you in advance for your reconsideration.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [jtmixedm@aol.com](mailto:jtmixedm@aol.com)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Outdoor seating  
**Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025 9:00:41 AM

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I am writing to support the ability of downtown Douglas eateries to have the ability to have sidewalk seating as long as it does not interfere with pedestrians or pose a safety hazard.

John Thomas  
Now & Then

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)



**From:** [Linda Page](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Outside pop-up tables  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 6:19:22 PM

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As a local, I am writing to ask you to please continue the outside tables in Douglas. We love being able to go to Happystance and sit at their tables under the beautiful yellow umbrellas. Same goes for EPC and Respite. We love outside dining in the warm weather and it brings such a welcoming and lively presence to downtown Douglas. Please don't end it. It brings people to downtown Douglas and brings more people to our businesses.

Linda Page

**From:** [Nicholas Chard](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Patio Easement  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:51:24 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

The charm of Douglas is second to none. And from what I've experienced, the patio dining has added to that charm. Please continue the easement for use of patio dining.

Thank you.

Nick Chard

**From:** [James Yost](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Patio Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 3:58:28 PM

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Hello,  
We LOVE spending time on the patio spaces in Douglas. If anything, we'd like to see more of them.  
Thank you for your leadership,  
Jim Yost

**From:** [Jan Cohen](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Patio pop ups  
**Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025 8:37:32 PM

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Please not: I am in favor of continuing sidewalk-patio-street pop up seating in Douglas. Happenstance's beautiful yells umbrellas add flavor and character and a bit of whimsical joy to the downtown area. The pop ups were both a brilliant addition for consumers in adding to the better customer service and wait time as well as being more profitable for our local businesses. Sidewalk/patio seating in restaurants and displays areas for other retail merchants adds a whole new realm of shopper's delight to our downtown area with a European feel and a beach-town quality.

Warmly,  
Jan Cohen  
269 932-8806  
Resident, registered voter and pastor of Douglas MI.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Scott Meivogel](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Patio Umbrellas  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:12:47 PM

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Greetings,

My family and I are writing to let you know that we favor outdoor pop-up patios. We live in town and love to sit outside at our favorite eateries. In addition our out-of-town guests love it as well. Please keep it going. Thanks in advance!

Scott Meivogel

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**Scott Meivogel**

**[SWEATERMANN](#)**

**[INSTAGRAM](#)**

216-798-4672

**From:** [Eric West](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Patio/sidewalk dining  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:09:42 AM

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Hi,

I'm not a resident, it do own a home on Lakeshore in Douglas (Fennville, technically). I spend roughly two months there. Our family is there for roughly six.

I strongly encourage the council to make the sidewalk essential for al fresco dining permanent. If the weather is nice, we will often opt to eat at a restaurant where we can sit outside. We're less likely to go out if the weather is bad meaning your restaurants w/o outdoor seating will not get business from us. Not because we don't like them - happy stance on particular is amazing - but because other places have outdoor seating.

Thanks!

Eric West

**From:** [Suzanne Stone](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Cc:** [Suzy Stone](#)  
**Subject:** Pop up patios  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:07:08 AM

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I'm writing to show my support for the continuance of the pop up patio/sidewalks for businesses in Douglas. Not only does this give an opportunity for business owners to generate additional revenue, but it also shows visitors and residents our richness of our community and diversity. We want to enjoy and take advantage of our beautiful area and weather, and shopping or dining outside is a great way to do that!

Suzy Stone  
3024 Harbor Rd.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Charles Lucas](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Pop-Up Patio Easement Support  
**Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025 7:20:07 AM

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Good morning,

I am a resident of Douglas and am writing in support of the easement that allows businesses to put up temporary setups outside their establishment (restaurants or others). I have personally dined at Everyday People and Happystance several times on the patio. The outside setups have brought a life and energy to the street that was unfortunately lacking before. It's a huge draw for residents of the community and brings a sense of excitement to visitors.

Please allow pop-ups outside of Douglas businesses to continue!

Thank you,

Charles

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Charles Lucas  
[Charles.T.Lucas@gmail.com](mailto:Charles.T.Lucas@gmail.com)



**From:** [Heather Conley](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Popup patios downtown  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 9:25:28 AM

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Dear City Council,

My name is Heather Conley, I am a Realtor with Century 21 Affiliated with an office in downtown Douglas (for just over a decade now!) I love our downtown and I am writing with the hope you will consider adopting sidewalk easements/pop up patios permantely. I firmly believe this will be a value-added for the community on many fronts; aesthetically, for example the cute, yellow umbrellas everyone loved last season outside of Happystance. My family owns a restaurant in the City of Fennville called Salt of the Earth. The outdoor seating at SOTE generates much needed income for the restaurant and there is always a wait to sit outside! I know the same can be said for businesses in Downtown Douglas.

I hope that the council will unanimously decide to support our Downtown Businesses AND continue the inviting atmosphere to our visitors by adopting the use of pop up patios. Thank you for your time.

Thank you,  
Heather Conley

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mackenzie Hans](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Side walk easements  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:47:22 PM

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To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that a decision regarding the sidewalk easements in downtown Douglas is to be made. I believe that the added seating for Douglas restaurants has been invaluable to the local businesses, and adds to the overall charm of downtown Douglas.

I hope that the city council will decide to continue to allow all of the restaurants to offer outdoor seating and ambience.

Sincerely,

Mackenzie Hans  
Galleries Manager  
(616)648-5883  
J. Petter Galleries

**From:** [Daniel Noonan](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:59:17 PM

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To whom it may concern

I am employed at both EPC and J Petter Galleries and spend a significant amount of time in Douglas. I believe that allowing restaurants and businesses to have sidewalk seating is essential to the character and charm of Downtown Douglas. Please consider continuing the sidewalk easement.

Thank you,

Daniel Noonan

**From:** [Michael Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk dining. Please, please, please continue allow sidewalk dining in Douglas. It adds so much to our community! Thank you.  
**Date:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 8:35:33 PM

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Michael Schmidt  
135 Main St.  
Douglas

**From:** [William Stratbucker](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk dining  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:34:42 PM

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I'm in favor of renewing the Douglas sidewalk dining ordinance. I'm a resident of Saugatuck Township but thought it would be helpful to know where the support lies.

William Stratbucker  
6573 Heron Bay Dr  
Saugatuck, MI 49453

**From:** [Marcia Leben](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk easement  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 11:41:35 AM

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Dear Douglas,

Please consider allowing eateries to continue to offer tables and umbrellas on the sidewalk along Center Street. It has been such a welcoming sight for visitors to our town.

My husband and I are reopening LebenArt Gallery at 23 Center this spring. It is very important for the town to show that a festive and happy vibe is going on in Douglas.

Thank you for your time.

Marcia & John Leben

**From:** [Sandra Bermann](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk easement  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 4:52:34 PM

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Hello

I hear that it is time for the city to consider the sidewalk easement issue. I have to say that one of the best things about Douglas in the summer is having the chance to sit outdoors under the beautiful umbrellas at Happystance and other venues. This makes the city much more inviting, encourages socialization, allows people with dogs to join in and adds to the ambience of the community. Given the economic downturn that followed Covid where so many businesses have been challenged to stay open, allowing easements would help a lot of folks. Please do the right thing and let this easement continue.

Sandy Bermann  
433 Summer Grove Drive  
Douglas

**From:** [Anna Gregg](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk Easement  
**Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025 4:05:37 PM

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Dear Douglas City Council,

I am writing in support of continuing the easements and pop up patios. I have loved seeing downtown Douglas bustling the last few summers. These spaces are truly an asset to our businesses and help them to make the most of the busy season.

Sincerely,

Anna Gregg



**From:** [Kent Gawart](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk easements / pop up patios  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 1:46:39 PM

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Good afternoon Village of Douglas.

I am a big supporter of local business in Douglas. I came to learn the sidewalk easement / pop up patios ordinance is set to expire.

I am writing for your consideration in extending this easement into the future. It brings so much personality to the Village and helps the businesses in so many ways. Please look at it closely for consideration.

If you have questions of me, my email is [ckg1@comcast.net](mailto:ckg1@comcast.net) and my cell is 616 780-1400.

Thanks, Kent Gawart

**From:** [Emily Snyder](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk Easements 1  
**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 9:04:50 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to request you continue to allow sidewalk easements and pop up patios for 2025. It makes it more appealing for visitors and locals to visit downtown Douglas to dine and shop.

Thank you,  
Emily Snyder

**From:** [D. Meier](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk Easements in 2025  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 12:06:51 PM

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Dear Douglas City Council members,

I'm a permanent resident of the Saugatuck-Douglas community and have been grateful for the increase in pedestrian traffic and activity on the street since HappyStance opened last year. Being able to sit at the outdoor tables on the sidewalk on warm days last summer and fall regularly prompted us to spend more time in downtown Douglas enjoying Happystance, but also enjoying several other local businesses.

I strongly encourage you to renew the easements for umbrellas and tables on the sidewalk in 2025. It's an investment not only in increased appeal and vitality in the downtown area, but also in increased commerce for neighboring businesses in Douglas.

Thanks for your consideration.

Dani

\*\*\*\*\*

**Dani Meier, PhD, MSW, MA**  
[dani.i.meier@gmail.com](mailto:dani.i.meier@gmail.com)  
(517) 914-5814 - [Zoom](#)

**From:** [Dave Bartlett](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk Easements  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:03:50 AM

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Dear Douglas,

My wife and I are in strong support of allowing sidewalk easements/pop up patios. We feel it makes the town look alive and hopefully capturing tourists attention. The umbrellas at Happysttance were a warm welcome. Great to see patrons sitting outdoors enjoying our little town.

Thank You.,  
David Bartlett

**From:** [Kabri Martyniek](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk easements/pop up patios  
**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 9:53:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.gif](#)  
[image003.gif](#)  
[image004.gif](#)  
[image005.gif](#)  
[image006.gif](#)  
[image007.png](#)

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Subject: Request for Continuance of Sidewalk Easements and Pop-Up Patios for the 2025 Season

Dear Douglas City Council,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to formally request the continuance of sidewalk easements and pop-up patios for the 2025 season. Given the positive impact these initiatives have had on our community, I believe extending them would be beneficial for both local businesses and residents.

The sidewalk easements and pop-up patios have not only enhanced the vibrancy of our streets but have also provided valuable outdoor space for dining and socializing, especially during the warmer months. As we continue to recover from the challenges posed by the pandemic, maintaining these arrangements will support our local economy and contribute to the overall well-being of our community.

I would appreciate your consideration of this request and any steps we may need to take to facilitate the process. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your positive response.

Best regards,



**Kabri Martyniek**  
Agent  
Bus: 269-857-2131  
150 Center Street  
Douglas, MI 49406-5112



 Kabri Martyniek, Agent



**From:** [Edward C Gilpin](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk easements/pop up patios  
**Date:** Saturday, February 22, 2025 6:34:18 PM

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Wanted to throw in my support for the sidewalk easements/pop up patios !

They are an asset to the downtown - their presence signal to anyone driving through town looking to maybe stopping and spending time in the town that Douglas is open, popular and inviting ! What better way to enjoy our great weather, town and friends but by sitting outside ... people watching, saying hi to friends and tourists !! I also think they are an asset to foot traffic for our town, they are inviting to get out of the car and see what we are about, which can benefit everyone and every business, assuming that is the goal when we want to help our businesses and town.

But a second point to my email is to question why we have to bring this up every year? It's time consuming and stressful for council and business owners. If you feel you need to review the policy, why not maybe make it a 3 year policy. Why it has to be done every year seems like a waste of time, resources and hurts businesses try to plan for the coming season by having to wait to a decision (and expensive for owner with regards to liquor permit approval since they sometimes have to be done twice one for inside and one for outside).

I summary, I think ALLOWING sidewalk easements / pop up patios, is a no brainer - PLEASE VOTE TO ALLOW (and consider a policy that doesn't require a annual renewal)

Edward Gilpin  
840 Center Street  
Doulgas MI

**From:** [Amber Samuelson](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** sidewalk easements/pop up patios  
**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 5:05:28 PM

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I am writing to support allowing sidewalk easements /pop up patios. This past year, I took advantage of the outside seating at Happystance. It was a lovely experience and I encourage the Village to continue allowing sidewalk easements/ pop up patios moving forward.

Best,  
Amber

Amber Samuelson  
[asamuelson2@gmail.com](mailto:asamuelson2@gmail.com)



**From:** [Michael White](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, February 21, 2025 2:27:47 PM

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I am writing in support of continuing to allow cafe tables and outdoor dining on Center Street in Douglas. It's charming to be able to eat outside, and it makes downtown Douglas very welcoming to residents and our visitors. Thank you,  
Michael White  
127 Harbor Court  
Douglas

**From:** [Ingrid Avery](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk pop up patios 2025  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 11:11:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.gif](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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Dear Douglas City Council,

I am writing to advocate for the continuation of outdoor sidewalk seating in our community. This initiative not only supports our local businesses but also fosters a vibrant atmosphere that enhances the sense of community for both residents and visitors. By allowing outdoor seating, we create inviting spaces for social interaction, encourage foot traffic, and contribute to the unique charm of our town.

Thank you for considering this important aspect of our community's growth and character.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Avery



P.O Box 730  
102 Blue Star Hwy, Ste 118  
Douglas MI 49406  
P 1-269-857-1751  
F-269-857-1838  
[ingrid@shinsurance.com](mailto:ingrid@shinsurance.com)

**From:** [Vickie Bischoff](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Sidewalk/outside dining  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 5:34:04 PM

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As residents of the community we would love to see the city continue to allow outdoor / sidewalk dining !

We so enjoy being able to dine Al fresco in Douglas!

Thank you!

Vickie and Dan Bischoff

**From:** [Saugatuck Home Care Services](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Support  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:52:49 AM

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Dear Douglas City Council,

I am writing to advocate for the continuation of outdoor sidewalk seating in our community. This initiative not only supports our local businesses but also fosters a vibrant atmosphere that enhances the sense of community for both residents and visitors. By allowing outdoor seating, we create inviting spaces for social interaction, encourage foot traffic, and contribute to the unique charm of our town.

Thank you for considering this important aspect of our community's growth and character.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Drooger  
Saugatuck Home Care Services  
(616)272-9438

**From:** [Jeff West](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Outdoor Sidewalk Seating  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:23:44 AM

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Subject: Support for Outdoor Sidewalk Seating

Dear Douglas City Council,

I am writing to advocate for the continuation of outdoor sidewalk seating in our community. This initiative not only supports our local businesses but also fosters a vibrant atmosphere that enhances the sense of community for both residents and visitors. By allowing outdoor seating, we create inviting spaces for social interaction, encourage foot traffic, and contribute to the unique charm of our town.

Thank you for considering this important aspect of our community's growth and character.

all the best,  
Jeff West  
(269) 416-0805  
142 Spring St Apt 4  
Douglas, MI 49406

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bev Fisher](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Outdoor Sidewalk Seating  
**Date:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 7:13:03 PM

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TIME SENSITIVE

Subject: Support for Outdoor Sidewalk Seating

Dear Douglas City Council,

I am writing to advocate for the continuation of outdoor sidewalk seating in our community. This initiative not only supports our local businesses but also fosters a vibrant atmosphere that enhances the sense of community for both residents and visitors. By allowing outdoor seating, we create inviting spaces for social interaction, encourage foot traffic, and contribute to the unique charm of our town.

Thank you for considering this important aspect of our community's growth and character.

Bev Fisher  
142 Spring St Apt 5

[Yahoo Mail: Search, Organize, Conquer](#)

**From:** [Michael Sanders](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Support Sidewalk Dining  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 10:05:27 AM

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Hello,

I'm writing in my support of allowing restaurants in Douglas to place a limited number of outdoor dining tables on the sidewalk.

As a resident, I love to see people enjoying a bite to eat outside. It's a great way to encourage walking and shopping and really makes our lovely town feel alive.

Best,  
Michael Sanders  
320 Blue Star Hwy, Apt 35, Douglas, MI 49406

**From:** [Dawn Bush](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Umbrellas  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 2:10:26 PM

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PLEASE keep the umbrellas!!! Love not being bombarded by the sun. So much more enjoyable in the summer heat.

Dawn Bush

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**From:** [liz spooner](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Umbrellas yes!  
**Date:** Thursday, February 20, 2025 7:27:56 PM

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Hello, as a part time resident of the area we enjoy the bright and cheerful umbrellas put out in the summer time at restaurants and businesses . It is inviting and encourages people To stop and eat or just pause and enjoy the ambience of the area. So please continue encouraging businesses up And down center street to beautify the area with their umbrellas! Thank you. Kurt and Liz Spooner

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Feb. 21, 2025

Dear Douglas City Council:

I moved to Douglas in the summer of 2023, and was made warmly welcome by friends and shopkeepers along Center Street. I am writing to support the continuing use of sidewalk/parking space for customers of Respite coffee shop. This end of Center Street has been made a vibrant, cheerful and personally supportive environment for long-time residents and newcomers alike, by the opening of Happystance restaurant and the warm, welcoming environment at Respite especially. The outdoor facility at Respite welcomes not just regular customers, but also new visitors to the shops and nearby parks — it is the beating heart of the city.

Sincerely yours,

*Bruce A. Magurn*

Bruce A. Magurn  
110 N. Washington St., Unit C.

**From:** [Paulette Stenzel](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Subject:** Strongly encourage you to allow sidewalk dining for 2025 (and in the future)  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 6:14:08 PM

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Dear Leaders of the City of Douglas,

My husband and I moved to 110 N. Washington, Unit C, in the summer of 2023, and we love the friendliness of this community.

I am writing to you to strongly encourage you to allow sidewalk dining in our city for 2025 and beyond.

There are multiple important reasons to allow sidewalk dining (and gathering):

1. Activity along the street attracts people. The positive energy enjoyed by residents as well as tourists. It's good for business, and it's good for our citizens to feel the activity around us.
2. We have met many people at Respite and Happystance. We have enjoyed meals outdoors with friends at Everyday People. Each establishment contributes to our sense of community.
3. Respite, in particular, is a gathering place for many year-round residents. This keeps economic activity going all year, not just during the height of the tourist season.
4. We need outdoor venues to gather. Covid-19, Influenza A, Influenza B, norovirus, and other viruses continue to circulate. When we gather outdoors, there is less danger of spreading disease. More of us will patronize our local businesses when we know we can sit outside.
5. This is an extremely dog-friendly town. The sidewalk areas in front of Respite and Happystance are accessible to dog owners. We, for example, have stopped by at Respite and Happystance for breakfast when out walking our little Havanese. That's business they might not have otherwise gotten.

I love this community and want to be here for the rest of my life. Please continue to do all that you can to make this a welcoming, people (and pet) oriented place. Our sidewalk dining places facilitate regular interaction with our neighbors and make our lives happier!

Respectfully,

Paulette L. Stenzel  
110 N. Washington, Unit C.  
Douglas.

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*Paulette L. Stenzel*  
*blog: [mariposapaulette.com](http://mariposapaulette.com)*  
*website: [tradeandsustainability.com](http://tradeandsustainability.com)*

**From:** [John Corvino](#)  
**To:** [City of Douglas](#)  
**Cc:** [Mark](#)  
**Subject:** sidewalk ordinance  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025 1:55:02 PM

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Dear Douglas City Council,

As residents of Douglas, we understand that the temporary ordinance allowing sidewalk easements and pop-up patios is coming to an end, and we are writing to urge you to extend it permanently.

From the patrons enjoying meals under the cheerful patio umbrellas at Happystance, to the neighbors sipping coffee and holding court at Respite, we find that these outdoor patios contribute to the convivial, welcoming atmosphere that makes Douglas such a great place to live and to visit. Moreover, the outdoor gathering spaces seem to be a draw for the art galleries and other shops in Douglas, thus contributing to the local economy. We would be sad to see these lively outdoor gatherings come to an end.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
John Corvino and Mark Lock  
316 S. Union Street