

November 1, 2013

Village of Elberta: Village Council
151 Pearson Street
Elberta, Mi 49628
RE: Village Property Adjacent to 603 Frankfort Avenue

Dear Council Members,

My husband, Robert Cannaert and I, Michele Dale-Cannaert, purchased the property located at 603 Frankfort Avenue in December 2005. During the past seven years, we have rehabilitated the building and opened a seasonal business. We have maintained our business during the past 8 summer seasons; developing a foothold in the local economy. We are committed to continually improving our property and maintaining our business in the Village of Elberta.

As business owners and tax payers, we are very concerned about the current financial status of the Village of Elberta. We intend to do what we can to help the Village of Elberta move forward during the process of working with the State of Michigan to become financially sound. The financial solvency of the Village of Elberta is key to the success of our business; along with the other businesses in Elberta.

During discussions at the three previous council meetings (as reported in the local newspapers; September 2013 and October 2013 meeting minutes are currently not available on line) it was noted that the properties owned by the Village of Elberta possibly would be offered for sale to help eliminate the current \$500,000 deficit. Since we have Village of Elberta property adjacent to our property, we are very concerned about this issue.

To be proactive, we are indicating to you, the Village Council, that should the sale of Village of Elberta properties come to fruition, we would like to acquire the "duck head" property, which is adjacent to 603 Frankfort Avenue. Since 2010, when MDOT finished the M-168 decommissioning project, we have worked to maintain and upkeep the "duck head" property.

We clean and weed the gardens, trim the trees and shrubs, sweep and wash the sidewalks, cut the grass, and make sure the trash receptacles are emptied and washed out. This property has provided a wonderful seating area for our customers and other visitors to the Village of Elberta. This property is non-conforming in size and has right-of way restrictions, so there is no possibility of building any additional structures on the property. With acquisition of the property, additional tax revenue would be paid to the Village of Elberta, as our current property would be reassessed to include the additional "duck head" property.

We want to be part of the solution for the Village of Elberta. We would not have purchased property, rehabilitated a building and started a business if we did not feel committed to this beautiful, quaint place on the shores of Lake Michigan. Elberta has the ability to make a comeback and become a thriving community, if everyone works together to be part of the solution.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Cannaert and Michele R. Dale-Cannaert