

# DOWAGIAC MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

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2018 Flew by - **2019 Taking Off**

**Pilots Education:** We continued to host a series of three free training seminars presented by the FAA Wings Program/Grand Rapids Office-with an average attendance of 25 participants.

**Crop Duster Operations:** Increased to 28 full days (22 in 2017) with 2 to 7 aircraft per day.

**Biz jets:** Slight increase of business related flights.

**Bright Sky:** Once again, the center stage for the awesome fireworks show by the Young Professionals of Dowagiac.

**Standby:** Waiting list for hangars rentals remains at a constant 6.

**Coming or going:** 2 new aircraft, 2 new ultralights, 1 new tenant and 2 aircraft gone.

**Summer blues:** Accident in August on the turf runway, no injuries, total aircraft loss. Exemplary actions by the Police and Fire Department with assistance from County and True's Towing.

**Mundane:** Assessment and preventive maintenance of electrical system and fuel farm performed by contractors. New pavement study ordered and paid by MDOT completed.

**Rehab:** Runway crack sealing completed (short of needs by 30% again!), painting postponed to 2019 due to weather, this is the \$42000. Contract awarded by FAA/MDOT with a local cost of \$2100.

**Missed it?** No Fly-In breakfast and Young Eagles program, annual events organized in the past by the local EAA Chapter in conjunction with the Lions Club, due to a few too many reasons...

**Stale:** Not a banner year for fuel sales: high prices/lower demand and competition.

**Drones:** Substantial increase of flight permissions by both private and commercial operators. Continued observed unauthorized flights. They are here to stay and are reproducing fast.

**No Change:** Snow plowing, deer, waste removal and local transportation- the same main complaints in order of priority by tenants and transient flyers.

**Still holding:** Tree trimming on approach paths. Non farmed land vegetation growth. Rotating beacon tower paint.

**Mo' money!**

- **Currently renewing the 197 acres farming contract. Expected modest increase.**
- **The 15 year rent free agreement with the Dowagiac School District for the Adult Education/Alternative Ed building expired this month.**
- **New hangars construction (grant awarded) may be completed this fiscal year, with anticipated immediate rental revenue.**



By: Oscar Azevedo, Jan. 2019