



City Manager Report

April 15, 2025

Maple Street Project

- On Monday, City Council approved moving forward with design engineering for the Maple Street project. The improvements currently planned include:
 - Road reconstruction and rehabilitation
 - Water main replacement (including replacement of services, some to inside the home/building)
 - Sanitary sewer repairs
 - Drainage and stormwater management improvements
 - Culvert repairs
 - Concrete sidewalk
- The estimated cost of the project is \$4,590,000. Funding for the project will include cost sharing with Saugatuck Township, grants, and use of City savings in its various funds. At this time, no bonding or debt service is needed to fund the project.
- The engineer anticipates the following schedule:
 - Wetland delineation, topographic survey and soil borings: April/May 2025
 - Preliminary design: April – August 2025
 - Final design and permitting: September – December 2025
 - Bidding: Late 2025 or early 2026
 - Construction: 2026 (specific timeframe to be determined)

Airport Property Project

- The old airport property off 63rd Street has a new name! After a community survey and recommendation from the Parks and Public Works Committee, City Council approved naming the property: Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve.
- The Outdoor Discovery Center is working to complete the parking lot, overlook, signage, invasive species removal, and preparing the trails.
- We are aiming to open the trails to the public by late May.

Updates to Short-Term Rental Ordinance

- After several workshop meetings, City Council has amended the Short-Term Rental Licensing ordinance. The changes will:
 - Provide a mechanism to process late applications. Late applications would be subject to a late fee.

- “Grandfather” in certificates or licenses that would otherwise be void due to any transfer of interest, even if that transfer added a new owner.
 - Only transfers that occurred between August 26, 2021 (3 years before the cap amendment took effect) and March 5, 2025 (the date of the workshop Council directed us to start on these transfer exceptions) will be eligible.
 - Eligible applicants will have 5 days from the effective date of the ordinance amendment to submit an application.
- Require submittal of proof of corporate entity or trust ownership each year.
- Allow transfers of ownership in limited circumstances, which include transfers that change the form of ownership but not the identity of the persons having an ownership in a STR.
- Allow for removal or reallocation of ownership interests, but prohibit transfers that add individuals or entities.
- Full details of the draft amendment can be viewed at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/3xm4a966>

Tri-Community Wildlife Committee

- On Monday, City Council adopted a resolution formally recognizing the recommendations of the Tri-Community Wildlife Committee. The resolution and recommendations can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/2jm3dm2u>

Natural Gas Outage

- Gas has been restored to the Michigan Gas Utilities (MGU) system. MGU has visited all customers who lost service last week. Crews have restored service to more than 80% of customers and left information for the remaining customers who were not at home.
- MGU believes there are hundreds of homes that are summer homes or second homes where the customer may not be regularly available. In those cases, they ask the homeowner to work with a trusted neighbor to let crews access the home to restore service and relight appliances.
- MGU is keeping extra crews in the area this week to help restore service to the remaining customers as quickly and safely as possible.
 - To schedule restoration, please contact Michigan Gas Utilities. Their number is 1-800-401-6402. Press option 0 to get an operator.
- Michigan Gas had over 200 crews from all over Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota who worked on this. A HUGE thank you to them for their work to restore service.
- I am very grateful for the collaboration and patience everyone showed. It’s been inspiring to see the community come together to help support each other.

Hydrant Flushing

- KLSWA advised hydrant flushing will take place Monday through Friday, Noon to 10:00 PM, during the weeks of April 21 and April 28, 2025. Primary flushing is scheduled for the week of April 21, with additional flushing as needed the following week. Flushing is essential for removing iron sediments, ensuring fire hydrant readiness, and testing the water system.
- Here are some tips they provided:
 - Flushing may cause discolored water and sediment; check water before using.
 - Avoid using appliances like icemakers, washing machines, dishwashers, and water treatment devices during flushing times.
 - If discoloration occurs, run cold water from a bathtub or outdoor faucet (not connected to a filter) until clear.
 - After water clears, it's recommended to run an empty cycle on your washer and dishwasher before use.
- For questions, contact KLSWA at (269) 857-2709.

Upcoming Meetings

Full meeting packets are posted on the City website and Facebook prior to each meeting. When available, they can be viewed by selecting the board/commission:

<https://www.saugatuckcity.com/>

- April 22 at 10a – Parks and Public Works Committee
- April 23 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- April 28 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- May 1 at 6p – Historic District Commission