



City Manager Report

April 29, 2025

Mt. Baldhead Restroom Replacement

- The restrooms at Mt. Baldhead are in significant need of replacement. City Council listed restroom repairs as a desirable priority for the fiscal year. This work is also on the City's capital improvement plan.
- In May, the City Council reviewed and discussed recommended renderings from the Parks and Public Works Committee and approved an engineering services proposal to replace the restrooms.
- The construction plans were reviewed with City Council in January. The Mayor and I recently met with three area tribes to review the project, hear of any concerns, and get their recommendations. We will continue to work with them throughout the project.
- On Monday, City Council awarded a restroom replacement bid to Midwest Construction. To avoid disruptions this summer, City Council requested that construction occur after the Mt. Baldhead Challenge this fall.

Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

- We have been hard at work on next year's budget. A lot of infrastructure improvements and projects are planned for next year. The budget process includes the following steps:
 - Community Survey of Priorities – Completed in December/January
 - City Council Sets Priorities for Fiscal Year – Completed in February
 - City Council Review/Approval of Capital Improvement Plan – February/March
 - Department Head Submittal of Requested Budget to City Manager – Completed in March
 - City Manager Submittal to City Council – Completed in April
 - City Council Workshop on Proposed Budget – Completed April 23
 - Individual Meetings with Council Members to Answer Questions – As Needed
 - Additional Budget Workshops – As Needed
 - Public Hearing Prior to Adoption – To Be Scheduled
 - Council Adoption of Budget – Required No Later Than June 30
- Staff went over the draft budget at Council's workshop. The presentation, detailed budget, and video are now on our website:

https://www.saugatuckcity.com/uploads/1/3/3/9/133977444/website_budget_packet_link.pdf

- We are working to set up another presentation for the public hearing.

Maple Street Project

- Now that a design engineering proposal and cost share agreement with Township have been approved, Fleis and VandenBrink (F&V) has moved forward with the next steps. Wetland delineation occurred last week. F&V and Public Works did an onsite assessment of the project area on April 29. Soil borings are scheduled for April 30.
- As more design occurs, another open house will be scheduled.
- 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)

Oval Beach Passes

- Oval Beach seasonal passes will be available Thursday, May 1st at Saugatuck City Hall.
- City Taxpayer Season Pass - \$20
- Regular Season Pass - \$75

20 Years of Being a Tree City USA

- Last Friday, the City proudly hosted a tree planting ceremony to celebrate 20 years as a Tree City USA!
- In honor of this milestone, we planted a beautiful American Elm at Cook Park to take the place of the beloved Black Willow tree. While the Willow will always hold a special place in our hearts, this new Elm represents strength, resilience, and our continued commitment to preserving and nurturing our urban forest.
- Thank you to everyone who came out to support this meaningful moment. Here's to the next 20 years of growing green together!

Slow No Wake Survey

- The Cities of Douglas and Saugatuck are exploring possible changes to no-wake zones on Kalamazoo Lake.
- Share your input to help guide future discussions! Take the survey here:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JNVNCL2>

Oak Wilt

- The Gun Lake Tribe recently shared some important education for Oak tree owners.
- From April 15 to July 15, it's crucial to NOT prune any oak trees. Why? It's important to stop the spread of oak wilt, a fungal disease that spreads rapidly and threatens

our oaks. Oak wilt is lethal and causes trees in the red oak family to die within weeks if infected.

- Oak wilt infection peaks from mid-April to mid-July. During this time, sap-feeding beetles can unwittingly carry the disease through fresh wounds to new trees. There is no cure for oak wilt and there are several ways in which it can spread; proving prevention is key!
- Steps to Protect Oak Trees
 - Avoid pruning or injuring oak trees during their high-risk period from April 15 through July 15. If an oak tree does get damaged, immediately cover the wound with a tree-wound paint or latex-based paint.
 - Don't move firewood. Firewood can host the fungus so be cautious if the firewood is oak and you do not know if it could have died from oak wilt.
 - If you suspect your firewood came from a tree that died of oak wilt, you can burn it, chip it or debark it before April. Once it has dried for a year and/or all of the bark loosens, the firewood is no longer infectious.
 - Report all infections at [Michigan.gov/ForestHealth](https://www.michigan.gov/ForestHealth) to help stop the spread and protect Michigan's oaks!
- Let's work together to safeguard our oak trees and preserve Michigan's natural beauty for the next seven generations and beyond. For more information and resources, visit [MichiganOakWilt.org](https://www.MichiganOakWilt.org)

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/>

- May 1 at 6p – Historic District Commission
- May 7 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- May 12 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- May 15 at 6:30p – Planning Commission