



City Manager Report

June 10, 2025

Budget for Fiscal Year 2025/2026

- Last week, City Council held a public hearing on the proposed budget for next fiscal year. On Monday, City Council approved the budget.
- The proposed budget:
 - Includes a reduction in the operating and road millage rates due to the Headlee rollback.
 - Funds nearly all of City Council's priorities for fiscal year 2025-2026.
 - Adequately funds City services and operations.
 - Invests significantly in existing and new infrastructure.
 - Community survey results selected infrastructure as the top priority for the fiscal year.
 - Requires no debt service to complete projects.
 - Still maintains healthy reserves in the general fund that are far above Council's policy requirement.
- Full details can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/e7rfjhvn>

Where do your tax dollars go?

- While you may pay your taxes to the City, a majority of the tax payment is passed through to other taxing entities.
- If you have a principal residence exemption, 33% stays with the City. The other 67% goes to other entities.
- If you do not have a principal residence exemption, 23% stays with the City. The other 77% goes to other taxing entities. The additional taxes go to school operating, not the City.
- Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/3793e44c>

Maple Street Open House

- We had a good and steady turnout at the Maple Street open house. Folks are especially excited about the new sidewalk. The engineering team will be reviewing the comments and taking them into account as the design work progresses. Construction is planned for April – November 2026.
- Here is a link to view the plans that were presented: <https://tinyurl.com/y6t2s8x5>
- If you were unable to attend and have questions or comments, reach out to Jon Moxey of Fleis & VandenBrink at jmoxey@fveng.com or 616-977-1000.

Frontier Fiber

- Fiber is coming to more of the City this summer! Staff and engineering recently met with Directline Communication who will be managing the project on behalf of Frontier. They will be extending the fiber optic network on the following streets:
 - Campbell Road
 - Manchester Drive
 - Weirich Drive
 - Park Street
 - Vine Street
 - Frederick Street
 - Perryman Street
 - Dunegrass Circle
 - Van Dalson Street
 - Oval Beach
- This project is expected to expand service options at the lakeshore significantly and is just the first phase of a larger project extending to other areas of the City.
- Our engineering consultant, Jon Moxey, advised the following:
 - Work is planned to begin on Monday, June 9, 2025 and run through August. The work will be a combination of directional drilling new underground lines (minimal excavation work required), adding overhead infrastructure on existing poles and setting underground access points. All work is proposed to be complete within the public right of way or utility easements. Work will generally be staged along the road shoulder but there may be times when a lane closure with flaggers or a sidewalk closure will be required. Questions or concerns can be directed to the Directline project manager, Tiffany Manges at (574) 272-9814 x1010 or tmanges@dlci.net

Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve

- Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve is now open to the public! We hope you will check it out soon.
- Formerly known as the old Airport Property, Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve is located off 63rd Street, across from A Cut Above Tree Care. The entrance has a maroon colored gate.
- Type 3415 63rd, Saugatuck, MI 49453 into your GPS to get directions.
- Thanks to \$160,000 in generation donations, the following was fully funded:
 - Developing trails and signage
 - Overlook deck
 - Establishing a parking area
 - Combating invasive species and restoring natural habitat
 - A conservation easement to protect the eastern portion of the property for future generations.

Bike Racks

- We have new bike racks around town!
- Thanks to a donation from the Convention and Visitors Bureau, new bike racks were installed near the Culver Street lot, next to the east Chain Ferry landing, and outside the Rose Garden.

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/>

- June 18 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- June 19 at 6:30p – Planning Commission
- June 23 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- June 24 at 10a – Parks and Public Works Committee