



City Manager Report

March 11, 2025

Capital Improvement Plan

- At a recent workshop meeting, the City Engineer and Department of Public Works Superintendent presented an updated 5-year capital improvement plan. This plan covers infrastructure including roads, water, and sewer. The plan is updated annually, and priorities often change based on current conditions and funding opportunities.
- On Monday, Council approved the updated plan. The cost estimates shown are budgetary in nature and will be refined during project development and design. The plan can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/mry6du3f>

Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area

- With the help of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan, the master plan for the Saugatuck Harbor Natural has been updated. The updated plan can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/y6ckkje6>
- In the coming months, staff, City Council, and Parks and Public Works Committee will be evaluating options to address invasive species issues and improve trail signage.

The Art Coast of Michigan claims No. 3 spot for USA Today's 'Best Small Town Arts Scene'

- More great news! The heading above was the headline in a recent MLive article.
- With Saugatuck Center for the Arts, Ox-Bow and so many great galleries, studios, exhibitions, and public art installations, the area truly has a vibrant art scene.
- A big thank you to the CVB for their work to bring a temporary installation to Cook Park this upcoming fall and winter.
- You can read the article here: <https://tinyurl.com/3wzwx5f>

Milfoil Treatment

- Eurasian Water Milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant that is present in the Kalamazoo Harbor. In 2020, the City Council formed an Eurasian Water Milfoil Advisory Committee to address the Milfoil impacts including reviewing existing documentation, consulting with appropriate agencies and experts, identifying costs and reporting its recommendations.

- For the last four years, the City of the Village of Douglas and the City partnered with Aquatic Doctors to treat the milfoil. Aquatic Doctors reported there has been success in reducing the amount milfoil.
- On Monday, Council approved treatment for the 2025 season. While treatment of the same areas is being planned as a worst-case scenario, we are hopeful we won't have to treat as much area this year.

2025 Fireworks

- The Saugatuck Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) is organizing an Independence Day fireworks display to take place Saturday, July 5. This year's display is planned to be larger than last year and shot by the same vendor that did the Venetian Festival show.
- On Monday, Council approved a \$5,000 donation to the (CVB) for the fireworks display.
- A big thank you to the CVB for their work organizing the event!

Naming the Airport Property

- Based on the consensus feedback from Council, the Parks and Public Works Committee was asked to gather community feedback and recommend a new name for the property.
- We want your suggestions! Send us your name idea for the airport property here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY73CVM>

Budget

- On Monday, Council approved several budget amendments for the current fiscal year.
- With Council's approved priorities for next fiscal year, the department heads have been meeting with the Treasurer and I to present their budget requests for next fiscal year.
- We are planning to present the draft budget to City Council at their April 23 workshop meeting, which aligns with the Charter requirements.

City Branding and Signage

- Council established a website refresh and updated signage and wayfinding as a priority for next fiscal year.
- I reached out to Douglas to learn more about who they used for their new logo and signage and to review their request for proposals.
- Staff will be working to budget some dollars to begin this project.

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/>

- March 11 at 3p-9p – Board of Review Meeting
- March 12 at 9a-4p – Board of Review Meeting
- March 13 at 6p – Historic District Commission Special Meeting
- March 19 at 4p – City Council Workshop Meeting
- March 20 at 6:30pp – Planning Commission Regular Meeting
- March 24 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting