



City Manager Report

July 17, 2025

Creation of an Advisory Parking Improvements Task Force and Request for Proposals for Consulting Support

- Addressing parking issues has been established as a multi-year City Council priority for fiscal year 2025–2026.
- On Monday, City Council approved the creation of an advisory Parking Improvements Task Force and issuing a request for proposals for consulting services for a parking study and solutions.
- The Parking Improvements Task Force will be composed of diverse group of stakeholders. If interested in serving, a notice to apply will be coming soon. The Task Force will include:
 - One City Council member
 - One Planning Commission member
 - One City resident (non-business owner)
 - One restaurant owner
 - One retail business owner
 - One Convention and Visitors Bureau representative
 - One Interurban representative
- Consulting support will assist the Task Force by:
 - Clearly defining the problems and gathering community input.
 - Conducting an inventory and mapping all public and private parking spaces (east of the river).
 - Conducting a needs analysis considering seasonality, ADA access, and future expectations.
 - Evaluating options such as:
 - Adding spaces or building a ramp.
 - Transit, non-motorized infrastructure, and wayfinding.
 - Paid parking systems, including costs and potential revenue.
 - Zoning or regulatory changes.
 - Enhanced enforcement measures.
- Project timeline:
 - Task Force formation and consultant selection: ~2–3 months.
 - Work of the Task Force and consultant: ~9–12 months thereafter.

Mt. Baldhead Restroom and Upper Platform

- The Mayor, our engineer, and I recently met with area tribes to discuss the updated timeline for the restroom replacement and preliminary plans for upper platform replacement.
- The tribes provided helpful feedback and we are working on their recommendations.
- The restroom replacement remains on target for this fall.
- Upper platform replacement is planned for the fall of 2026.

AT&T

- I corresponded with AT&T last week. They remain committed to installing cellular antennae inside the Mt. Baldhead radome. They are waiting on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to schedule a meeting with area tribes.
- Initially AT&T was holding off on signing a lease until they obtained the necessary permits and approvals. AT&T advised they are now working on proposed revisions to the lease that would include a one-time capital contribution that City Council previously requested.

Blue Star Trail

- Staff, Friends of the Blue Star Trail, the Township, and our engineers have a meeting scheduled with MDOT to go over responses to the initial tribal feedback we received earlier this year.
- The tribe's on-site assessment remains scheduled for August.

No Wake Survey and Next Steps

- The Harbor Authority discussed the no wake survey results at their recent meeting. They didn't have a consensus or recommendation for the City Council. They did express concerns with state funding cuts leading to less enforcement. They voted to send a formal letter to the Sheriff's Office on that. They also asked Douglas and the City to evaluate slow no wake signage on both sides of the bridge.
- The survey results were included in the Harbor Authority's public meeting packet. You can view them here:
https://www.saugatuckcity.com/uploads/1/3/3/9/133977444/klha_meeting_packet_07082025.pdf
- I hope to bring their feedback and survey results to a Council workshop at the end of July or sometime in August for further discussion and direction.

Temporary Signage at Holland/Blue Star

- The Township, City, and Road Commission have prepared a sign agreement to temporarily re-locate the Saugatuck sign along the river to Holland-Blue Star. On Monday, City Council approved the agreement.

- If the Township Board approves the agreement, the City will be working to install the sign.

Public Works Goes Above and Beyond

- This morning, our Department of Public Works proved once again they're not just keeping our streets clean. Eight baby ducks found themselves trapped in a storm sewer. Thanks to their teamwork and compassion, the ducklings are now reunited with their mama and waddling off to safer adventures. Great job, team!



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/>

- July 23 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- July 28 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- July 31 at 6p – Historic District Commission Special Meeting