



City Manager Report

May 29, 2025

Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve

- Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve is now open to the public! We hope you will check it out soon.
- 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.
- Formerly known as the old Airport Property, Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve is located off 63rd Street, north of 134th.
- Photos from the ribbon cutting ceremony: <https://tinyurl.com/4yh6c6ny>

Maple Street Open House

- Our engineering consultant, Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V), has conceptual plans for the Maple Street work, which includes watermain replacement, new sidewalk, stormwater improvements, and road restoration. They are seeking input from the community to help guide the design process as it proceeds.
- We are holding a second open house on:
 - Tuesday, June 3 from 3:00pm-5:30pm and 7:00pm-8:30pm
 - Location: City Hall, 102 Butler Street, Saugatuck, MI 49453
- Please stop by anytime during the listed timeframes. F&V staff will have displays with the conceptual plans and design elements to be able to review any concerns you have and get your input on the future of Maple Street.

Temporary Signage at Holland/Blue Star

- Last year, the wooden Saugatuck sign at Holland/Blue Star was hit by a car and damaged beyond repair. At the time, staff obtained an estimate from the original sign maker, and it was estimated to cost nearly \$20,000. Staff sought direction from Council and the consensus at the time was to pursue a larger rebranding effort and have new signage match that.

- At Monday's meeting, City Council provided direction to temporarily re-locate the Saugatuck sign along the river to Holland/Blue Star until new signage is designed and approved.
- Staff is now working to obtain the necessary permits and final approvals from the Road Commission and Township. We hope to have the sign in place by the end of June.

New Signage on Drug Store Wall

- On Friday, the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) unveiled new signage on the side of the drug store wall. The CVB did a fantastic job with the design. It includes:
 - A map of the tri-community highlighting areas to explore.
 - Displays with upcoming event posters.
 - Holders containing several types of guides and maps.
 - Information about parking options and how to contact Interurban for a ride.
 - A QR code that links to current information on the CVB website.

Planters

- A huge thank you to the Saugatuck-Douglas Garden Club, Douglas Elementary sixth graders, and Council Member Muncey for bringing some serious spring beauty to our downtown!
- On Friday morning, they worked hard at planting 37 colorful planter pots and spreading the cheer throughout the City.
- Extra shoutout to the sixth graders who submitted essays for the chance to maintain the planters all summer long. A great way to show responsibility and community pride!
- Thanks for making our downtown bloom with color and care.

Severe Weather Event

- On May 15, significant severe weather, which involved strong winds (and numerous tornadoes inland), resulted in property damage and several trees and utility lines down.
- Events like this are challenging and there is a lot of prioritization and resource triage. A big thank you to the Fire Department for their significant response in securing numerous locations that had trees and power lines down.
- The safe and efficient response from the Public Works Department was also incredible. All DPW staff responded in the middle of the night and worked several hours Friday and Saturday to quickly secure and re-open several blocked roads. They also did a fantastic job in communicating with me, central dispatch, utilities, and Fire Department.
- The County declared a local state of emergency and we have submitted our response cost for possible reimbursement.

We are hiring!

- We are seeking a dynamic and organized Administrative and Project Coordinator to support our Public Works Department. If you or someone you know is driven, detail-oriented, and excited to contribute to the success of one of America's best small coastal towns, we want to hear from you. Learn more here:

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

Street Painting

- The City's street painting contractor has been hard at work freshening up our street, parking, and crosswalk lines. Some of this work is occurring overnight. Most of their work should be finished by the end of the week.

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 4 at 6p – City Council Workshop/Budget Public Hearing
- June 5 at 6p – Historic District Commission
- June 9 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting