



City Manager Report

August 5, 2025

Invasive Species Page

- Preventing and addressing invasive species is vital to protecting our local environment, economy, and quality of life. Invasive plants, insects, and animals can rapidly spread, outcompeting native species, damaging ecosystems, and threatening wildlife. They can also clog waterways, damage infrastructure, reduce property values, and lead to costly long-term management efforts. By identifying and responding to invasive species early, we can limit their spread, reduce impacts, and protect the natural resources and character of our community.
- The Parks and Public Works Committee has provided educational information about invasive species that are being found in our area. The information, including remedies and disposal, can be viewed on our website:
<https://www.saugatuckcity.com/invasive-species.html>

Oval Beach Featured in New York Times!

- Check out the recognition here: <https://tinyurl.com/nhetkayc>

New 2025 Caterpillar 938 Front-End Loader

- Last week, the Public Works took possession of our brand new 2025 Caterpillar 938 Front-End Loader!
- This vital piece of equipment helps the Public Works Department deliver efficient and reliable service to the community.
- They use it to:
 - Maintain Oval Beach
 - Provide brush & leaf collection
 - Load salt in the winter
 - Clean up after storms
 - Maintain the DPW site off 63rd Street...and so much more!
- Check out the new Saugatuck sign at Holland Street and Blue Star Highway
 - Public Works used the front-end loader to top-dress around the sign with screened topsoil.
 - The DPW team pressure washed the sign, filled voids with wood filler, and gave it a fresh coat of paint.
 - The old shrubs may be replaced soon, and we're also adding a couple of new flood lights for even more visibility.

- Huge shoutout to our DPW team for their hard work and pride in our community!



Updated Agreement with Sheriff's Office

- Last Monday, City Council approved an updated law enforcement services agreement with Allegan County.
- The City is continuing to contract for four deputies from the Sheriff's Office.

Blue Star Trail

- Saugatuck Township, Friends of the Blue Star Trail, C2AE, and I recently met with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to go over responses to the initial tribal feedback we received earlier this year. MDOT was very helpful in answering questions and advised they remain committed to having the project completed.
- The tribe's on-site assessment remains scheduled for August.

Director of Planning and Zoning

- Unfortunately, Friday was Luke's last day with the City. He has returned to the City of South Haven.
- We posted the position in several places and received a strong pool of candidates.
- The Mayor, Chairs of the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, Vice Chair of the Historic District Commission, and I recently interviewed six candidates.
- We hope to have the position filled soon. In the meantime, planning and zoning matters can be directed to me.

Waste Management

- Last year the City negotiated an updated agreement with Republic for residential waste management services. At that time, City Council and staff discussed that as

a smaller municipality, we had less purchasing power. City Council was supportive of looking at ways to collaborate with nearby municipalities for future contracts.

- Fennville recently had a grant funded fellow help them evaluate similar options. I recently met with representatives from the Cities of Holland and Fennville and Townships of Laketown and Saugatuck to explore a regional Interlocal Agreement for joint procurement of materials management (waste, recycling, and/or yard waste) services through a single-hauler RFP. The goal is to improve efficiency, lower costs, and increase service quality.
- All attendees were open to continuing to explore this option. Future meetings are being scheduled.

Join the Parking Improvements Task Force

- The City is accepting applications for appointment to the Parking Improvements Task Force.
- Applications are due by 5 p.m. on August 15th and can be completed [online](#) or in person at Saugatuck City Hall. Please include which seat you are applying for.

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:

- August 5 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- August 11 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting