City Manager Report

August 29, 2025

Mt. Baldhead Restroom Replacement

- Restroom replacement is set to kick off after the Mt. Baldhead Challenge.
- The week of 9/8 will be mobilization, setting up fencing, and Miss Dig requests. Construction fencing will be arranged in a way to maintain access to the stairs and alternate parking areas north of the pavilion on the west side and on the east side of Park Street.
- Midwest Construction is hoping to be substantially complete by the end of November.

Appointments to Parking Improvements Task Force

- On Monday, City Council appointed the following members to the advisory Parking Improvements Task Force:
  - **City Council Representative and Chair:** Gregory Muncey
  - **Planning Commission Representative:** Auston Marineau
  - **City Resident (non-business owner) Representative:** Cathy Brockington
  - **City Resident (non-business owner) Representative:** Wendy Colsen
  - **Restaurant Owner Representative:** Alec Payleitner
  - **Retail Business Owner Representative:** Michael Gustaitis
  - **Convention and Visitors Bureau Representative:** Gary Kott
  - **Interurban Representative:** Becky Carten-Crandell
- Depending on the timing to hire a consultant, the first meeting will likely be in late September or early October.
- The City received three proposals from consultants to conduct a parking study and support the work of the Task Force. Over the next couple weeks, Chair Muncey, Mayor Anderson, and I will be reviewing the proposals and interviewing each firm to make a recommendation to City Council.
- All task force meetings will be open to the public. The City Clerk is creating a Parking Improvements Task Force page on the city website. The City will be posting all agendas, meeting packets, and recorded meeting videos on the website so they can be accessed by the community. We will also be sending meeting notices and agenda packets to all the subscribers of our e-mail news blast.

Students are Back!

- Students are back in school. Please be extra cautious when driving near schools and bus stops.

- Stop for school buses when red lights are flashing—both directions of traffic must stop unless separated by a physical median.
- Slow down in school zones and watch for children crossing the street.
- Allow extra time in the mornings and afternoons for increased school traffic.
- Avoid distractions. Keep your eyes on the road, not your phone.

Holiday Lighting Grant

- City Council recently approved a three-year contract renewal with Chips Groundcover for holiday lighting with a display similar to previous seasons plus additional lighting added to Water Street from Culver Street to Mary Street and Hoffman Street from Water Street to Butler Street.
- The CVB was excited to hear that additional lighting was approved. I am pleased to report that the CVB has approved a $20,200 grant to help fund the additional lighting and electrical needs. A **HUGE** thank you to the CVB for their partnership and support.

Blue Star Trail

- The Friends of the Blue Star Trail recently announced that their Toast fundraiser raised over $100,000! A big thank you to the Friends and all their supporters for their work and donations to make completing the trail a reality. You can find out more here: https://tinyurl.com/4ktp7nvu
- On Monday, the tribal nations completed their on-site assessment. The Township Manager, our engineer, and I greatly appreciated the opportunity to join them. I learned a lot and appreciate everyone working together. We hope to have another meeting at the end of September to go over more details and discuss next steps for additional assessment of certain areas.

Electrical Upgrades

- I have continued to follow up with Consumers Energy regarding the outages we experienced this summer.
- Our contact advised: “They have done significant upgrades in the substation where the failure occurred that caused the outage. They also have some high and low voltage pole replacements planned for the area as well. Should help with reliability.”

Tax Payments

- Reminder that summer tax payments are due by September 14.
- If you need another copy of the payment amount, you can find the information online: https://bsaonline.com/Home/MunicipalityHome?uid=380
- 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.

Where Will each tax dollar go?

TAXING ENTITY	TOTAL MILLAGE RATE	
CITY OF SAUGATUCK OPERATING	10.1676	
CITY OF SAUGATUCK ROADS	1.6726	VOTED EXPIRES 2031
CITY OF SAUGATUCK ROAD DEBT	1.4000	VOTED EXPIRES 2028
SCHOOL STATE EDUCATION	6.0000	
SCHOOL OPERATING*	18.000	*Non-Principal Residence Only
SCHOOL DEBT	3.4500	
SCHOOL BLDG/SITE	0.4921	
SCHOOL RECREATION	0.2460	
SCHOOL INTERMEDIATE DISTRICT	6.0962	
ALLEGAN COUNTY OPERATING	5.1619	
ALLEGAN COUNTY MED CARE	0.2426	
ALLEGAN COUNTY CONSERVATION	0.0970	
ALLEGAN COUNTY ROADS	1.0000	
ALLEGAN COUNTY SENIORS	0.4887	
INTERURBAN TRANSIT AUTHORITY	0.4913	
DISTRICT LIBRARY	0.4388	
DISTRICT LIBRARY DEBT	0.2480	
FIRE DISTRICT	2.9000	

Principal Residence Exemption Properties

67% Other Taxing Entities 33% City of Saugatuck

Non-Principal Residence Exemption Properties

77% Other Taxing Entities 23% City of Saugatuck

Temporary Polling Location Change

- For the November 4, 2025 election, City Hall's second floor will be inaccessible due to elevator repairs, making it unsuitable for voting.
- The polling place has been temporarily moved to the Saugatuck Women's Club, 303 Butler Street.
- All registered voters in Precinct 001 will be notified by the City Clerk of this change before Election Day.

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:

- September 3 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- September 4 at 6p – Historic District Commission
- September 8 at 6:30 – City Council Regular Meeting