



City Manager Report

October 30, 2025

Parking Improvements Task Force

- The first meeting of the Parking Improvements Task Force was held to kick off the City's comprehensive parking study. Consultants from Walker Consultants and Fleis & VandenBrink outlined the project's goals, which include a data-driven analysis of parking inventory, occupancy, turnover, and policy, with recommendations expected by late summer 2026.
- The Task Force confirmed the study area and selected locations for detailed turnover data collection. Members discussed parking challenges for residents, businesses, and visitors—particularly during peak event periods—and highlighted opportunities to improve.
- The group also discussed a forthcoming community survey to be conducted during both the off-season and summer season, as well as additional outreach through public events. Field data collection is planned for November (inventory), spring 2026 (off-season occupancy), and July 2026 (in-season occupancy).
- The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2025, at 3:00 p.m.
- You can watch the first meeting here:
<https://youtu.be/WDq2WrVWuu4?si=FEMJTXP30Ms9FBxv>

Master Plan – Survey and Open House Summary

- The City's Master Plan Survey was open from August through early October and received a total of 386 responses. A HUGE thank you to everyone who took the survey.
- Preliminary observations from the survey data and a summary of input received during the community engagement event can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/msuhunj>
- The Planning Commission, City Council, and staff are doing a deep dive into the full results and will be using the feedback to establish goals and priorities and update several plans including the land use master plan, capital improvement plan, and asset management plans.

Street and Parking Lot Resurfacing

- Patching on Lucy Street, resurfacing Main and Hoffman Street ends west of Water Street, and resurfacing the Wicks Park parking lot is scheduled to take place on November 4 and 5.

Deer Concerns

- We continue to hear concerns about deer impacts and whether the City is working to address the issue.

- Last year, a tri-community wildlife committee was formed, and they provided their recommendations earlier this year.
- City Council recently made updates to our weapons ordinance to:
 - Allow for deer culls that have received approval from the City, the Allegan County Sheriff's Department, and other applicable local and state agencies.
 - Continue to prohibit archery hunting but retained the option for Council to do so in the future by resolution, should it choose to designate an area or approve a specific request.
- I have talked to various folks who have some interest in archery hunting and encouraged them to submit their requests and plans for Council consideration.
- I recently met with the Department of Natural Resources to learn what's required to apply for a deer cull and with the Sheriff's Office to discuss potential implementation options. Together, we also met with Meridian Township, which is widely regarded as a model for effective and community-sensitive programs. We're reviewing the information and recommendations they shared.
- Once we have more details and a proposed plan, I'll return to City Council for direction on whether to move forward with a cull.

Sidewalk Repairs

- The Department of Public Works (DPW) and a contractor have begun repairing several sections of sidewalk. Further work is planned for next week. If work will be occurring outside your home or business, you will receive a letter from the DPW team.

Mt. Baldhead Restroom

- Construction continues on the new restroom.
- Midwest Construction provided the following progress report:
 - The concrete masonry units are almost complete. Only one to two days remaining to complete that before insulation and the face brick starts.
 - The power issue is almost behind us. Our contractors got this done very quickly, so we are thankful for them.
 - We are hoping to continue progress with the building this week, barring any rain. We may fall behind a bit as we look towards framing the roof, but we are confident we can make up the time.

Mt. Baldhead Upper Platform and Retaining Walls

- Further survey work was completed last week. We look forward to receiving and reviewing the report and continuing to coordinate with the tribal nations on design.

Milfoil

- Eurasian Water Milfoil is an invasive aquatic plant that is present in the Kalamazoo Harbor. For the last five years, the City of the Village of Douglas and the City partnered with Aquatic Doctors to treat the Milfoil.
- Aquatic Doctors advised they were able to reduce the area treated this year which saved close to \$7,000. We are shifting to more of a maintenance phase, and this will be necessary on an annual basis.

- On Monday, City Council approved an agreement with Aquatic Doctors to apply for permits and treat Milfoil for 2026.

Frontier Fiber Optic Installation

- Last week, engineering, planning/zoning, and public works met with Frontier subcontractors to go over additional installation plans. Much of the work will involve aerial installations, but some work will involve further boring. We continue to emphasize the need for frequent communication, and we appreciate the improvements as their project has progressed.

Water Smart Landscaping

- Calling all residents of the Kalamazoo River Greenway! Learn about reducing outdoor water use while keeping your yard beautiful by attending a Water Smart Landscaping 101 workshop. Find the full details and reserve your seat at <https://altru118299.sky.blackbaud.com/118299/Water-Smart-Landscaping-101>



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:

- November 6 at 6p – Historic District Commission
- November 10 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- November 19 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- November 20 at 6:30p – Planning Commission
- November 24 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- November 25 at 10a – Parks and Public Works