



City Manager Report

September 26, 2025

Mt. Baldhead Restroom Update

- Construction continues on the new restroom.
- Prior to work beginning, Lake Shore Resort LLC/Andrew Milauckas offered to remove and repurpose the old building to keep it in the area. It also saved the City the cost of demolition and disposal, which was a win-win.
- Here is an update from the contractor:
 - Foundations are poured. Walls will be finished soon.
 - September 30: Utility work including new water line.
 - Mid-Week: Underground plumbing.
 - October 8: Interior slab to be poured ahead of masonry.



Frontier Fiber Installation

- Frontier Communications is expanding internet services in Saugatuck. Directline Communication is managing a project on behalf of Frontier to extend its fiber optic network.

- The work includes a combination of directional drilling new underground lines, adding overhead infrastructure on existing poles and setting underground access points.
- All work is proposed to be within the public right of way or utility easements. Work will generally be staged along the road shoulder but there may be times when a lane closure with flaggers or a sidewalk closure will be required.
 - On occasion, boring equipment needs to be lined up in such a way that it can fall slightly outside of a road right of way. In those cases, the crews will knock on the door and ask permission before entering private property. If the property owner denies their request, then the crew will approach the property across the street to get the line that they need.
- Questions or concerns can be directed to the Directline Project Manager, Tiffany Manges at 574-780-7514 or tmanges@dlci.net.

Master Plan Survey & Open House

- The City has officially begun the process of creating a new Master Plan, a long-range document that guides the City's future growth, preservation, investment, and land use decisions.
- Your help is needed! The following opportunities are available:
 - Open House Event: September 30, 2025 - Drop in anytime from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Saugatuck High School to participate and share your thoughts at interactive stations (401 Elizabeth St, Saugatuck, MI 49453).
 - Community Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/saugatuckplan>. Paper copies are also available at City Hall (102 Butler St, Saugatuck, MI 49453).

Parking Study Consultant

- Mayor Anderson, Council Member Muncey, and I recently interviewed potential parking consultants to conduct an in-depth parking study and support the work of the Parking Improvements Task Force. A recommendation to City Council is planned for their October 8 workshop meeting.

Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve

- Saugatuck Wilds Nature Preserve received a glow-up last Friday. A big thank you to the 8th graders from Saugatuck Middle School!
- Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/54xmzkrx>

Wellhead Protection Flyer

- With wells being our source for drinking water, we need everyone's help to protect them from contamination.
- The wellhead protection team recently used grant funds from EGLE to send out this flyer: <https://tinyurl.com/mtxj5rbw>

Consumers Tree Trimming this Fall

- It's always a balancing act of trying to maintain a nice tree canopy and outage impacts from downed trees or limbs. The Consumers franchise ordinance that was approved in 2019 allows them to do tree work.
- Consumers recently advised the following:
 - As part of our reliability efforts to improve service in the Saugatuck/Douglas area we will be trimming and removing trees and brush in accordance with our standards in the areas indicated on the map. This project will start this fall.
 - Residents will receive a postcard in the next couple weeks from us letting them know of the upcoming project. See below for our line clearing standards.
 - <https://www.consumersenergy.com/company/trees-and-power-lines#expect>
 - <https://www.consumersenergy.com/-/media/CE/Documents/forestry/share-the-space-brochure.ashx?la=en&hash=A242C909B885EF54C94B75EF2941B087>
- I have asked Public Works to reach out to Consumers to see if we can get any more details and advocate to minimize impacts to our tree canopy.

Airbnb: Saugatuck A Top Trending Fall Destination

- Airbnb recently named Saugatuck “a top fall destination because of its small-town charm, focus on art and abundance of outdoor activities.”
- View the story here: <https://tinyurl.com/bde2vjka>

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 30 from 5p-7p: Master Plan Open House
 - Drop in anytime at Saugatuck High School to participate and share your thoughts at interactive stations (401 Elizabeth St, Saugatuck, MI 49453).
- October 2 at 6p – Historic District Commission Meeting
- October 8 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- October 14 (Tuesday) at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting