



## City Manager Report

July 2, 2025

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend

- Get ready for a fun-filled 4th of July weekend!
- Friday, July 4
  - 11:00 AM – Parade in Downtown Saugatuck
  - 12:00 PM – Family Fun Party at Wicks Park
    - Join us for yard games, face painting, balloon twisting, a pie-eating contest, and awards for the most spirited attendees!
- Saturday, July 5
  - Fireworks over Lake Kalamazoo at Dusk
  - Watch from great spots like:
    - Coghlin Park
    - Cook Park
    - Wicks Park
    - Mt. Baldhead Park
    - The BARge, Butler Patio, Coral Gables, and more!
- Where to Park:
  - Saugatuck High School – 401 Elizabeth St.
  - Douglas Elementary – 261 Randolph St.
  - Old Haworth Property – 200 Blue Star Hwy
- Interurban Bus Service:
  - 1–9 PM: Free shuttle from Saugatuck High to downtown every 15 minutes
  - 7 AM–7 PM: \$1 On-Demand Rides
  - 7–9 PM: \$3 On-Demand Rides
  - 9 PM–12 AM: FREE On-Demand Rides anywhere in the service area!
  - Call 269-857-1418 to request a ride
- Let's celebrate safely and joyfully—see you there!
- Visit [saugatuck.com](https://saugatuck.com) for more details.

### Tax Bills

- Summer tax bills have been sent out. They are due by September 14.
- 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.
- Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/3793e44c>

### **Water Quality Report**

- The Kalamazoo Lake Sewer & Water Authority has released the 2024 water quality report. The report can be viewed here: <https://www.klswa.com/2024WQR.pdf>

### **Kalamazoo River Greenway**

- In 2018, in partnership with the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) and municipalities throughout the County, a lower Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan was created. In 2019, City Council endorsed the plan as an advisory document to guide a comprehensive approach to restoring the Kalamazoo River and its tributaries and help engage public involvement to determine financial feasibility of any proposed projects. A copy of the plan can be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/ry4r7s>
- The ODC recently held a meeting with other tri-community stakeholders to discuss the progress we have made on the plan. The City had a lot of great progress to report on the goals of the plan.
- At the last regular meeting, City Council joined Douglas, Fennville, and Saugatuck Township to each provide \$5,000 in funding to the ODC for Kalamazoo River Greenway plan projects, and to appoint Council Member Stanton to serve on the Kalamazoo River Greenway Advisory Board.

### **How to Report Short Term Rental Concerns**

- We love visitors in Saugatuck and hope they enjoy everything our beautiful City has to offer! That said, we also understand that concerns may sometimes arise related to Short-Term Rentals (STRs). Here's what to do if issues come up.
- Active Noise Complaints
  - Call the Allegan County Sheriff's Office directly at (269) 673-3899 or 911. Calls can be made anytime.
  - Provide your name and number—doing so ensures a deputy will be dispatched.
  - If the issue continues, please call again so further enforcement can take place.
- 24/7 STR Reporting Hotline
  - For other STR concerns such as parking, overoccupancy, or trash, we have a dedicated hotline that notifies the local agent and tracks each complaint. Local agents are required to respond within 2 hours.
  - Call: (269) 442-4845

- Or file online: <https://secure.hostcompliance.com/saugatuck-mi/complaints/type>
- Contact an Agent Directly
  - Want to reach out to the responsible local agent yourself? You can find the most recent list of licensed rentals and contact info here: <https://tinyurl.com/2w8rmrtv>

### **We are hiring!**

- We are seeking a multi-talented Oval Beach Manager / Public Works Equipment Operator - Maintenance Worker to manage Oval Beach (April 1 - September 15) and support our Public Works Department for the remainder of the year. If you or someone you know is driven and excited to contribute to the success of one of America's best small coastal towns, we want to hear from them. Learn more here: <https://www.saugatuckcity.com/employment>

### **Floating Homes Litigation**

- The Michigan Court of Appeals issued a major victory for City of Saugatuck in the Floating Home dispute.
- In an 18-page opinion, the Michigan Court of Appeals rejected multiple challenges by Dune Ridge SA, LP to the City's Floating Home Ordinance. The challenge stems from a property transfer by the City to the developer of property adjacent to the Chain Ferry dock on the west bank of the Kalamazoo River. The developer claimed the City's ordinance violated the terms of a land swap agreement it had made with the City. Dune Ridge has docked four vacant floating homes at the West Bank location since 2021 in violation of the ordinance while the issue was vigorously litigated by the parties.
- The appellate court affirmed the Allegan County Circuit Court's ruling that the agreement between the City and Dune Ridge did not prohibit the City from regulating floating homes. The court also held that the City was immune from claims that the City acted negligently or made misrepresentations in connection with the agreement. Although a few issues remain to be resolved in the case, including the legality of a privacy wall constructed by Dune Ridge between its property and the Chain Ferry dock, the decision paves the way for the removal of the floating homes from their current location.
- We will provide more updates as the litigation continues.

### **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/>

- July 9 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- July 10 at 6p – Historic District Commission

- July 14 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- July 17 at 6:30p – Planning Commission