



City Manager Report

September 10, 2025

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).

Mt. Baldhead Restroom Replacement

- A reminder that the replacement of the Mt. Baldhead restroom is beginning.
- 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 have the work substantially complete in December and final completion in spring 2026.

Mt. Baldhead Observation Platform Replacement

- Our engineering team has provided the following update:
 - Design work is progressing. Additional survey work is complete.
 - The Allegan Conservation District has provided the Vegetation Removal Assurance, which is a report required for state and federal Critical Dunes permitting. The report evaluates impacts on vegetation, native, non-native and invasives, and provides guidance for the design and construction. The report includes guidance for several of the unhealthy, dead or undesirable species to be removed as part of the project and replaced with native/desirable ones.
 - Met with area stakeholders to review the survey and proposed concepts. Gathering feedback to incorporate into the design, as well as pre-construction activities to address concerns with the site.

Maple Street Improvements

- Our engineering team has provided the following update:
 - Working on addressing comments from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy on the water system permit.
 - Depending on timing for permits and final design, we anticipate issuing the project for bids in late 2025 with construction during the 2026 construction season (approximately April to November)

Updates from Public Works

- **Road Resurfacing:** The City Engineer and Public Works Superintendent conducted a field assessment to evaluate candidate roads for asphalt resurfacing or mill/overlay work. This work is geared towards roads that have decent underground utilities underneath but show signs of advanced deterioration on the asphalt surface. To maintain these roads to a high standard, the top 1 ½” of the asphalt surfaced can be milled off and replaced or overlaid with rolled hot-mix-asphalt (HMA). At this point, the following roads will likely be presented to council for resurfacing consideration:
 - Lucy Street – 10 x 30 area just east of Butler Street (Fall 2025)
 - Hoffman Street – west of Water Street (Fall 2025)
 - Wicks Park Parking Lot (Fall 2025)
 - Mary Street – Between Water Street and Butler Street (Spring 2026)
- **August Brush & Leaf Collection:** Brush and leaf collection services took place on August 12th for properties located on the east side of the Kalamazoo River and on August 13th for properties on the west side of the river. This collection was an opportunity for the Public Works staff to try out the new Tink attachment on the front-end loader. The trial run was very successful. Staff picked up 52 brush piles and could load the material from the rear of the dump truck. This allowed staff to limit the moving convoy to a single lane improving traffic flow and safety. The backhoe was not used at all for the collection which saves on tires, emissions, and cost.
- **New Hire:** Chad Bouwman resigned in July to take another position closer to his home near Kalamazoo. Public Works conducted interviews, and the position was offered and accepted by Mr. Anthony (AJ) Brown. AJ comes with a great recommendation from Douglas Public Works after working seasonally there for 2 years and has experience working for the Mackinac City Public Works seasonally. AJ started on September 8.

HeartSafe Tri-Community

- Former paramedic, Tony Schippa, and several supporters have been working to make the Tri-Community HEARTSafe. The mission is to train, educate, and empower the Tri-Community members and visitors on the lifesaving importance of early intervention CPR and AED use.
- The group frequently offers free CPR/AED classes.

- Check out their website or Facebook page to sign up for an upcoming class and learn more:
 - Website: <https://www.sdheart.org/>
 - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575662624271>

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 17 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- September 18 at 6:30p – Planning Commission
- September 22 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- September 23 at 10a – Parks and Public Works Committee