



City Manager Report

March 23, 2026

Maple Street and Other Infrastructure Improvements

- The City and our partners+ held a preconstruction meeting with Schippers Excavating. A detailed schedule is forthcoming. When construction starts, we will be meeting every two weeks to review progress and discuss any concerns.
- A notice will be going out to Township and City property owners along Maple and in the cul-de-sacs. The notice will include the tentative start date and ask those interested in regular project updates to sign up with the DPW Project Coordinator. A general notice of the signup opportunity will also be sent to the City's e-mail list. Engineering and the construction project manager are planning on sharing weekly updates.
- The Water Street gate valve work is planned for this spring. This will involve some intersection closures and water service being interrupted. Engineering is checking to see if the work can be done at night to lessen impacts. Public Works, engineering, and KLSWA are coordinating a notice to downtown property owners that may be impacted. We know the disruption may be frustrating, but this work should avoid more impactful disruptions in the future.
- Our engineering team evaluated the Township request for a more proportional cost share for a few items (general conditions, pre-construction video survey, and traffic control). We are agreeable to some adjustments that will lessen some of the cost for the Township and increase some of ours.

Parking Improvements Task Force

- The packet for the Parking Improvements Task Force includes a lot of items that I would encourage the Council to also review and digest as time allows. Here is what is in the packet:
 - Survey Results, including open ended responses.
 - Stakeholder Interviews
 - Framing Saugatuck's Parking Challenges and Potential Remedies
 - Parking Inventory
 - Estimated Cost to Build and Operate a Parking Structure in Saugatuck
 - Paid Parking Considerations for Saugatuck
 - Wayfinding, Signage, and Communication Evaluation
- Packet link:
https://www.saugatuckcity.com/uploads/1/3/3/9/133977444/pitf_4.7.26.pdf

Plastic Pellet Spill Cleanup

- EGLE continues to provide weekly updates to the managers of the tri-community as well as the tribal nations. Here is a quick summary from the latest update:
 - **Spill & Recovery Status**
 - Approximately 48,000 pounds of nurdles were being transported.
 - ~33,000 pounds recovered to date (including material from the trailer and roadside).
 - ~15,000 pounds remain unrecovered.
 - **Cleanup Progress**
 - Land-based cleanup is underway along an 11-mile corridor, using specialized mowing/vacuum equipment.
 - Effectiveness is weather-dependent, with better results in dry conditions.
 - The City of Holland completed street sweeping along M-40.
 - **Containment & Environmental Protection**
 - Coir logs and straw matting are being installed to prevent migration into waterways.
 - Vegetation near the river is currently helping contain material but will need removal for full cleanup.
 - Plans include vacuuming stormwater sumps and installing catch basin inserts.
 - **River Conditions**
 - Initial diver assessments (March 12) indicate minimal nurdles in the Kalamazoo River, pending EGLE review.
 - River and tributary cleanup will use manual netting methods to minimize sediment disturbance.
 - **Next Steps**
 - Updated cleanup work plan due to EGLE on March 18, 2026.
 - Cleanup efforts will continue as weather allows.
 - **Oversight Transition**
 - EGLE's Emerging Pollutants Section will now lead the response, focusing on longer-term management and microplastics analysis.
 - If anyone has seen any nurdles in the river or along the shoreline outside of the initial spill site; please contact Eddie Kostelnik (kostelnike@michigan.gov or 517-331-0122) and let him know what you have observed.

Michigan Municipal League Capitol Conference

- I attended the annual MML CapCon conference. A lot going on in Lansing this year with all state offices on the ballot. In addition to sitting in on house and senate sessions and a house transportation committee meeting, here are the sessions I attended:
 - League Legislative Team Breaks It Down & Legislator of the Year Awards
 - Networking Dinner
 - Legislative Breakfast

- The Next Chapter: A Vision for Michigan (Governor Candidates)
- Partnering for Progress: Municipal–Utility Collaboration and Michigan’s 2023 Clean Energy Law Implementation
- Networking Lunch
- Turning Data into Decisions: The Power of Data-Driven Storytelling

Miscellaneous

- Attended further meetings to learn about a speed and traffic count product.
- Prepared for and attended Planning Commission meeting.
- Attended Logo and Branding Advisory Committee meeting.
- Attended Convention and Visitors Bureau Board meeting.
- Held one on one with Public Works Superintendent.
- Held one on one and six month review with Director of Planning and Zoning.
- Held one on one with City Treasurer.
- Held one on one with City Clerk.
- Held Department Head team meeting.