



City Manager Report

April 17, 2026

Elizabeth Street Improvements – Community Input Requested!

- The City is beginning the planning process for potential improvements along Elizabeth Street (between Francis Street and Allegan Street), and we want to hear from you!
- Proposed improvements currently being evaluated include:
 - Road resurfacing or reconstruction
 - Water main replacement (including some service connections into homes/buildings)
 - Sanitary sewer upgrades
 - Drainage and stormwater improvements
 - Sidewalk improvements and/or extensions
- Our engineering consultant, Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V), has started gathering information and is now looking for community input to help guide the design process.
- **Open House Date: Tuesday, April 28**
 - 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM and 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
 - Location: Saugatuck City Hall, 102 Butler Street
 - Stop by anytime during the open house to review plans, ask questions, and share your feedback.
- If you're unable to attend, you can still share your thoughts by contacting Jon Moxey:
 - jmoxey@fveng.com or 616-977-1000

Parking Update: What We're Learning So Far

- Our Parking Improvements Task Force has been hard at work studying parking. Here are a few quick takeaways.
- We have 1,868 public parking spaces citywide
 - 1,502 on-street | 366 off-street
 - Less than 1% of spaces are used for outdoor dining
- What about a parking structure?
 - Estimated cost: \$7M–\$10M+
 - Would likely be underused outside peak season
 - Not expected to pay for itself over time
- Opportunities we're exploring:
 - Better signage and wayfinding
 - Easier-to-understand parking info
 - Improved online resources
 - Enhanced shuttle options
- We've also heard concerns about inconsistent enforcement, which can lead to overstays and fewer available spaces when you need them most.

- This is just the beginning—more work is ahead as we look for practical, cost-effective solutions that work for residents, businesses, and visitors.
- Stay tuned for updates as the study continues until August 2026!
- Further details: <https://www.saugatuckcity.com/parking-improvements-task-force.html>

Notice of Construction

- The City would like to inform residents and visitors that roadway construction will be taking place throughout the city.
- April – May 2026 Construction Locations:
 - Mary Street (between Water Street and Butler Street)
 - Water Street & Hoffman Street intersection
 - Water Street & Francis Street intersection
 - Spear Street (west of Water Street)
 - Francis Street (west of Water Street)
 - Coghlin Park & Wicks Park
- May – November 2026:
 - Maple Street (from Blue Star Highway to North Street)
 - Sign up for Maple Street Project updates here: <https://tinyurl.com/anac5huw>
- Questions? Contact any of the following:
 - **City of Saugatuck** - Michelle Gibson, Project Coordinator - (269) 224-9504
 - **Fleis & VandenBrink Engineering**
Jon Moxey, P.E., Project Manager – (616) 588-1925
Peter Tierney, P.E., Project Manager – (616) 914-8621
- Thank you for your cooperation and patience as we complete these important improvements to our infrastructure.

Logo and Branding Survey

- The City is updating its brand to better reflect our community today—and your input matters.
- Share your perspective in this short survey and help shape how Saugatuck is represented moving forward. The survey closes on May 4, 2026.
- Take the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CityofSaugatuck_Rebranding

Oval Beach Concessions

- We're excited to partner with SaugaTaco to operate the Oval Beach concession stand for the 2026 season!
- City Council recently approved the agreement, and we're thrilled for SaugaTaco's vision to bring a fresh, creative approach to the beach experience. SaugaTaco's plan includes classic beach favorites like snacks, drinks, and sweet treats—plus something new: tacos, quesadillas, and salads delivered right to your spot on the beach.
- Guests will be able to order from the beach and have their food brought directly to them, creating a seamless and convenient experience while enjoying one of Michigan's most iconic shorelines.

- Stay tuned for more details on ordering and delivery as we get closer to the season!

Other Recent City Council Approvals

- Proposal from Diversified Welding & Fabrication to Reconstruct and Install the Chain Ferry Landings.
- Proposal from Arbre Croche Cultural Resources, LLC for a Phase I Archaeological Site Identification Survey for Blue Star Trail
- Updates to Wick's Park Boat Slip Leasing Policy
- Village Square Park Donation Agreement
 - The City extends its sincere appreciation to the Julie and Kirk Cousins Foundation for their leadership and generosity in helping bring this long-envisioned project to life.

Proposed Budget for Next Fiscal Year

- Staff has been working hard on next year's proposed budget.
- I will be giving a draft budget presentation at the April 22 workshop meeting. The meeting begins at 4p.

Mt. Baldhead Restrooms

- Finishing touches are in the works, but the new restrooms at Mt. Baldhead are now open!

Hydrant Flushing

- Hydrant flushing is scheduled for April 20 through approximately 24.
- Learn more here: <https://tinyurl.com/3de4wax7>

Lower Kalamazoo River Water Trail

- Join the Kalamazoo River Greenway for a Lower Kalamazoo River Water Trail Public Open House and help shape the future of recreation on the river.
Tuesday, April 28
5:30–7:00 PM (drop in anytime!)
3461 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck Township
- This is a great opportunity to:
 - Learn how water trails support recreation and local economic vitality
 - Share your feedback on current plans
 - Explore ongoing and future Greenway projects
- Whether you paddle, fish, boat, or simply enjoy the river—your input matters!

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:

- April 20 at 10:15a - Election Public Accuracy Test
- April 22 at 4p – City Council Workshop Meeting
- April 27 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- April 28 at 10a – Parks and Public Works Committee