



Good Afternoon Everyone.

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of October 26, 2020.

**Halloween** – Saturday is Halloween and Trick or Treat hours in the City are recommended between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Safe Halloween guidance is available on the City's website or by visiting [http://cms.allegancounty.org/sites/Office/Health/coronavirus/ACHD%20Halloween%20Guidance\\_10012020.pdf](http://cms.allegancounty.org/sites/Office/Health/coronavirus/ACHD%20Halloween%20Guidance_10012020.pdf).

**Leaf Pickup** – DPW is working on the annual leaf clean-up program. I've attached a leaf schedule for your reference.

**Assessor** – The City conducted an interview for a new City Assessor this week and I will be making a recommendation to City Council to appoint Tom Doane to the position. Mr. Doane comes with more than 30 years' experience and we expect a smooth transition as Kelly Ziesemer has announced her retirement will be at the end of the year.

**Convention and Visitor's Bureau** – I had coffee with Lisa Mize of the CVB to introduce myself and talk a bit about what is going on in Douglas. Lisa will be making a presentation about the CVB to the City Council sometime in December.

**PUD** – I attended a training session with the Planning Commission this week to learn about Planned Unit Development and the ordinances that outline the PUD process. Linda Anderson, former planner from South Haven lead the overview and responded to questions from the Planning Commission membership.

**Temporary Boil Water Notice** – Residents this week in the area near McVea and Golfview were issued a temporary boil water notice for potable water uses on October 28<sup>th</sup> because of a mechanical valve issue encountered during water main construction caused the water main to depressurize. Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority physically delivered the notice to only those residents effected by the notice. Boil Water Notices are rare but are issued as a precaution when certain situations are encountered that may cause water quality issues. The notice remains in effect as of this writing.

**EPA Grant** – The City Treasurer submitted the EPA Grant on behalf of the City on Wednesday. If awarded, the grant will provide an opportunity to remediate asbestos containing material at 200 Blue Star Highway, cover the demolition of the building, and address PCB contamination under the building. The City's Environmental Engineer believes we have a good opportunity to receive the grant. Thank you to all the community members who participated in the public comment portion of the grant review. The comments received from the community made the grant application much better.

**Douglas Beach** – I've received the preliminary study back from the engineers about the erosion and Douglas Beach and oversized (10-50 foot long) sandbags are being proposed as a temporary solution to slow the erosion of the bluff over the winter. We are actively seeking quotes from vendors who specialize in sandbagging and we will bring the quotes to City Council as soon as possible.

**Frisbee Golf** – The City Council approved the installation of a nine-hole frisbee golf course in the woods at Schultz Park, however, work to clear the fairways was halted until permission from MDOT could be obtained to utilize their property. MDOT owns surplus property to the west of the boat ramp where a portion of the course is proposed to be located. MDOT must review property records before they will permit the use of the property. The City's Executive Assistant has checked back for status updates multiple times with no updates to report. Stay tuned.

**Calico Kitchen Demolition** – The demolition of the building formerly known as the Calico Kitchen has been a much-discussed topic recently. I understand that the property has recently been sold and we have a commitment from the new owner to remove the blighted building after closing on the property. City Hall continues to push for immediate demolition of the building.

**School Storage** – You may have noticed school district personnel at City Hall recently. The School Superintendent inquired about additional storage space in the City for excess furniture to free up classroom space at the elementary school. I offered some of the unimproved space on the second floor of City Hall as a temporary solution.

**Internet Access** – With the ongoing COVID crisis, access to technology has become even more important. This week a concern citizen approached City Hall about their neighborhoods concerns and possible solutions. Our conclusion was this was a tri-community issue that perhaps could be best approached by forming an ad hoc group to study the issue and develop options. We also identified that a survey of the community may be a quick way to inventory the list of issues and needs. I'll be speaking with my counterparts in the other communities to try to get consensus on how best to work together to resolve the issue.

**Welcome** – I want to wish a warm welcome to Amy Howell who has joined the Clerk's office. Amy started on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup> and will be manning the front counter of City Hall and assisting the City Clerk. Welcome aboard Amy!

That is all I have for now. Have a great weekend.

Rich LaBombard  
City Manager