

Good Afternoon Everyone.

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of March 29, 2021.

COVID –City Hall doors are closed to the public once again and many employees are working remote. City Hall closely monitors COVID cases in the area and the month of March saw a sharp increase in cases. COVID infection levels have surged in Michigan as a whole, causing alarm for health officials. Citizens wishing to contact City Hall may call 269-857-1438. <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/01/us/michigan-covid-outbreak.html>

Open Meetings Act – Revisions to the Open Meetings Act (PA 254 of 2020) due to COVID restrictions expired on April 1 and public meetings were to resume in person unless a local emergency is declared. Today, Friday (4-2-21) at 4:00, the City Council will hold a special meeting to pass a resolution supporting a local emergency declaration that will allow public meetings to continue to be conducted by Zoom for the safety and welfare of the community.

Schultz Park Boat Launch – A new apron at the Schultz Park Boat ramp is installed and the concrete is curing. Newly installed concrete takes 28 days to completely cure before it is useable. The ramp will be ready and open to the public in the first few weeks of April. The new apron will be more efficient for boaters and reduce recurring maintenance issues.

Social Districts – I spent some time this week researching and preparing a council communication for social districts. A social district is an economic tool for municipalities to help businesses endure the impacts of COVID-19 by creating a dedicated boundary and commons area that allows consumption of alcoholic liquor within the commons area of the social district. There are three key areas of responsibility for a successful social district.

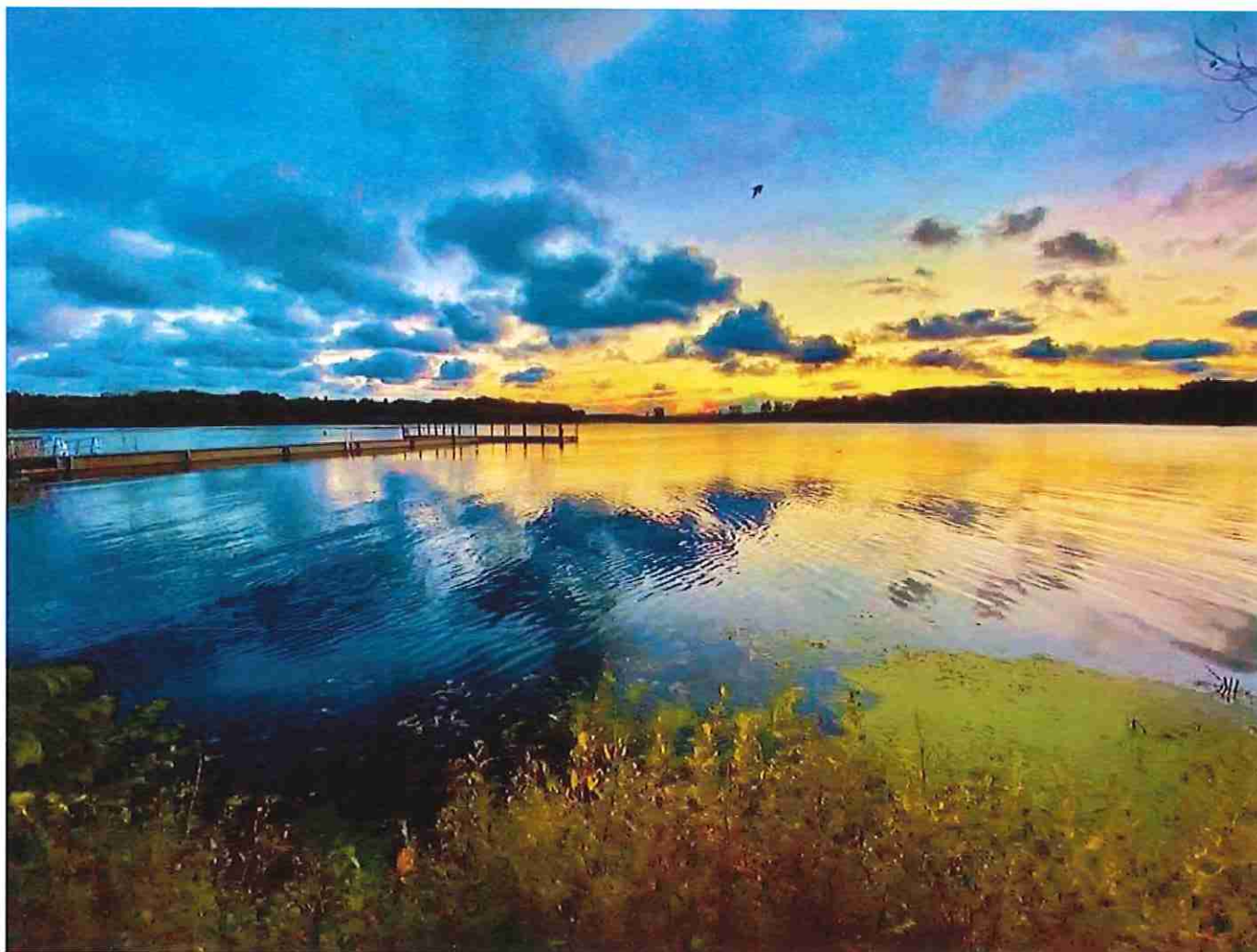
1. Municipal responsibilities – resolution of support; designation of a boundary – clearly marked; local management plan (hours of operation, signage, communicating information); and local maintenance plan (how will you protect the health and safety of the community).
2. Licensee responsibilities – obtain a permit; sell alcoholic liquor from its premises only; may not sell to minor or intoxicated persons; served in an identifiable serving container with logo, business name, not made of glass, liquid capacity of no more than 16 oz; not allow liquor from another licensee brought into its premises.
3. Patron responsibilities – may purchase alcoholic liquor from a licensed establishment in the district; may remove alcohol from the licensee's business for consumption in the commons area; may not transport liquor into another premises, may not transport liquor outside the commons area; may not consume alcohol in an establishment not licensed to sell liquor.

Beach Access – Contracts are signed for the beach access project and demolition of the dilapidated stairs will begin within the next 7-10 workdays. Edgewater proposed an easily removable aluminum system of steps similar to the image below for the bottom portion of the access stairs. The aluminum stair system can be removed in the event erosion and high water become a threat again.



That's all I have for now. Have a good weekend and Happy Easter.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager



Wades Bayou Sunrise - Image by Kyle Hooker, Douglas Department of Public Works