

Good Afternoon Everyone.

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of April 19, 2021.

COVID –City Hall doors are closed to the public and some employees are working remote. Citizens wishing to contact City Hall may call 269-857-1438. You may schedule an appointment if you need to speak to a City employee in person.

City Council Meeting – The regular City Council meeting was Monday night and, in addition to receiving information about the proposed Social District, it also approved:

- Chamber Music Festival Event for July 18th at Beery Field
- Second Reading and Amendment of zoning table of uses and special use standards
- Saugatuck Township joining KLHA
- Awarding a contract to Al's Excavating to make improvements to Blue Star Highway between Main and Union Streets
- Tri-Community Trail Committee Agreements – Three Agreements
- Lot split
- Lot combination

Douglas Harbor Authority Meeting – The DHA met to discuss management of Point Pleasant Marina, received an update on the completed Schultz Park launch apron improvements, discussed dead tree removal at Schultz Park, received an update on the rowing dock being constructed for Wades Bayou, and discussed rezoning Point Pleasant Marina. Buoys are proposed to be installed around Mother's Day and aquatic weed treatments are proposed to be applied in June.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority Meeting – The KLHA met on Tuesday and discussed aquatic weed treatments, received an update about buoy installation, and received an update about Saugatuck Township joining the Harbor Authority. The Authority also received information about the Kalamazoo River Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. The Kalamazoo River Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment is seeking public comment about the draft plan. Comments can be submitted through May 14, 2021. A public meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on April 29th. (See attachment)

Social Districts – We are starting to receive a few responses back from the Social District poll sent out last week. Approximately 130 polls were sent out to residents within 300 feet of either side of Center Street surrounding the proposed Social District.

Restaurant Assistance – This week I forwarded information from the Convention and Visitors Bureau to as many Douglas restaurateurs and food establishments as I could find e-mail addresses for. The program offers assistance to food service businesses in the wake of the covid pandemic.

Douglas Beach Access – Work continues on the Douglas Beach access stairs. This week I visited with the engineer and contractor and reviewed the location of two decks that will be constructed to provide additional stopping points and seating at various points on the way to the beach. We anticipate the major work will be concluded by Memorial Day.

Road Maintenance – I provided information to Allegan County Road Commission this week to include the City in its bid for pavement crack seal and pavement chip seal work. The County can bid large quantities of road maintenance work for local units of government to get the lowest price possible. As part of the 5-year maintenance program, the City has a number of crack seal and chip seal projects to complete to improve the longevity to the street assets.

River Navigation Public Notice – After discussing the I-196 bridge work with the Douglas Harbor Authority and the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, a draft public notice was developed to issue to boaters navigating the Kalamazoo River to warn them of an active work zone in the channel on the underside of the highway bridge. Work platforms are suspended on the bottom side of the bridge and workers may be present. The platforms are lighted in the evening, but boaters are cautioned to proceed with care. (See Attached)

Blue Star Trail Meeting – The three community managers and the chair of the Tri-Community Trail Committee met with C2AE Engineers of Grand Rapids to discuss trail project design kick-off with the committee. May 7 or May 14 were discussed as possible design project kick-off dates.

Michigan Municipal Executives – I participated in a meeting with the Michigan Municipal Executives group and listened in on a presentation about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The manager of Ottawa County's program discussed how the County program was conceived, developed, and shared with County departments and staff.

Town Crier – Organizers of the Town Crier races met this week to discuss the event, the course, and requested the community's assistance to make the event a success. The communities support the race by providing barricading, additional trash cans, restroom cleaning, and police support. The organizers will meet with the three communities' staff again about two weeks prior to the race.

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

Rich LaBombard
City Manager

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 12, 2021

Nick Assendelft, EGLE Media Relations, AssendelftN@Michigan.gov, 517-388-3135
John Riley, EGLE Environmental Quality Analyst, RileyJ2@Michigan.gov, 517-897-2398

NATURAL RESOURCE TRUSTEES RELEASE KALAMAZOO RIVER DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN, PROPOSED PROJECTS

Comment period opens; online public meeting scheduled for April 29

State and federal Natural Resource Trustees for the Kalamazoo River released today for public review and comment the [Draft Supplemental Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment](#), which includes 14 proposed natural resource restoration projects aimed at restoring the ecology and public use and enjoyment that has been negatively impacted by historic polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination.

The public comment period begins today and runs through May 14, 2021, with a public online meeting scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, April 29, 2021.

The draft plan document and additional information can be found on the [Kalamazoo River web page](#).

Draft supplemental restoration plan, proposed projects

The draft restoration plan proposes a suite of restoration projects chosen from more than 80 ideas that were submitted by the public through an online [restoration portal](#) in 2020. After the current public comment period, Trustees will consider the public input and may revise the restoration plan.

Projects included in a final restoration plan and environmental assessment will be funded with a portion of \$10 million in settlement funds from NCR Corporation and more than \$2 million in remaining bankruptcy proceeds from Millennium Holdings and Plainwell Paper, Inc. The funds result from the companies' liability for injuries to natural resources due to PCB contamination of the Kalamazoo River. Approximately \$2 million in additional restoration funds will become available from the NCR settlement each year for the next seven years.

The Natural Resource Trustees will solicit restoration project ideas and propose projects to implement in the Kalamazoo River watershed until all current and future funds are expended.

Project ideas that were received prior to the Trustees' March 18, 2020, deadline were evaluated against criteria set forth in the [2016 Final Restoration Plan and Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#), available on the [Kalamazoo River web page](#). Project ideas were then ranked and prioritized for implementation, based on their potential to benefit natural resources injured by the release of PCBs and considering the amount of available funding.

How to submit a comment, attend April 29 meeting

The Trustees are seeking public review and comment on the [restoration plan](#), including the proposed projects listed in Section 3 of the draft plan:

- Send an email to KalamazooRiver.NRDA@NOAA.gov (please put "Kzoo SRP Comment" in the subject line).
- Mail comments to: Lisa Williams, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101, East Lansing, MI 48823.

At the online public meeting, Trustees will explain the restoration process and the implementation plan, discuss

specific proposed projects listed in the plan and answer questions. The meeting will be recorded and posted online in a timely manner afterward.

You can [register in advance](#) for the online public meeting or join when the online meeting begins. If you do not have internet access and would like to join by phone, dial 636-651-3142 and use conference code 374288.

Individuals needing language assistance or accommodations for effective participation at the meeting should contact John Riley at 517-897-2398 by April 21, 2021, to request language, mobility, visual, hearing, translation and/or other assistance.

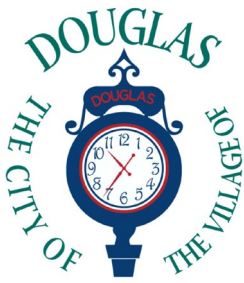
Background on the site

Paper mills conducting carbonless copy paper recycling released PCBs into the soils, sediments, floodplains and surface water in the Kalamazoo River and Portage Creek from the late 1950s through early 1970s. This resulted in injuries to natural resources including fish, mammals and birds. In 1990, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named the area a Superfund site by adding it to the National Priorities List. The state of Michigan continues to issue fish consumption advisories, recommending people do not eat or at least limit the amount of fish they eat from the portions of the site impacted by PCBs. The most current advisories are available in the [Southwest Michigan Eat Safe Fish Guide](#).

The Natural Resource Trustees for the site are the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR); the Michigan Department of Attorney General; the U.S. Department of the Interior represented by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS); and the U.S. Department of Commerce represented by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

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The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

Public Notice

April 22, 2021

The following public notice is issued by the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority.

Kalamazoo River boaters should be aware that an **ACTIVE WORK ZONE** exists on the Kalamazoo River channel under the Interstate 196 highway bridge east of Schultz Park boat launch. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is performing bridge repair work and boaters in the river channel are cautioned to treat the area approaching the I-196 bridge as an **ACTIVE WORK ZONE**. Marked work platforms are suspended below the bridge and workers may be present. Boaters approaching the area should slow down, check clearances, and proceed with caution.

MDOT is reconstructing approximately 12.1 miles of the southbound lanes of I-196 between 130th Avenue and M-40 and the scope of work includes bridge maintenance and repair work on the topside and underside of the bridge over the Kalamazoo River. Construction of the first phase between 130th Avenue and Exit 41 (Saugatuck / Douglas exit) began in April and is anticipated to be complete in July. Phase 2 will shift north of Exit 41.