



Good Afternoon Everyone.

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of April 26, 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 City staff in person.

Douglas Beach Access – Construction continued throughout the week on the access stairs. I stopped in on Wednesday and checked on progress. The helical piles are installed and the framing for the stairs is being installed. The project is still on track to have major construction complete by Memorial Day.

DDA Walking Tour – I joined several members of the DDA on a walking tour of the district on Wednesday. The tour provided an overview of activities underway in the district and began the visioning process for improvements that could be possible in the district.

July 4th Fireworks – Saugatuck invited the Police Chief and me to a discussion about a 4th of July special event permit they are considering. There were a number of questions about social distancing and crowd control that will need to be resolved. The closed I-196 exit could be a difficult challenge to control traffic moving through Douglas to and from the highway. With so many fireworks displays cancelled, the event has the potential to attract very large crowds if approved.

EPA Grant Announcements – We learned this week that the EPA will make grant announcements on May 10. The City submitted an EPA Clean Up grant application in October to assist with cleanup and redevelopment of 200 Blue Star Highway.

UTV – The Department of Public Works took receipt of a new utility service vehicle this week. The UTV is intended to be used by part-time seasonal employees in the downtown district and City parks during the summer maintenance season. The Douglas Police Department can also use it during events.

Point Pleasant Marina – The Department of Public Works began some clean up of Point Pleasant Marina this week. They were able to remove a section of fence that separated the property from the adjoining parking lot and cleaned up some of the landscape with the help of the County DEBTS crew.

Blue Star Highway Work – Next week will be the pre-construction meeting to go over the work City Council approved to move a section of curb on Blue Star Highway and repave the pathway. The contractor does not anticipate needing a detour to complete the work.

Social Districts – The City Clerk continues to receive feedback about the proposed social districts. So far, approximately 4 of every 5 responses are supportive of creating the social district.

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

Rich LaBombard
City Manager