

Good Afternoon,

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of December 20, 2021.

Holiday – City Hall will be closed on Thursday (12-23) and Friday (12-24) in observance of the Christmas holiday. Similarly, City Hall will be closed on Thursday (12-30) and Friday (12-31) in observance of the New Year holiday. Happy holidays to everyone.

Rural Task Force – I attended an organizational meeting of the rural task force in Holland this week where I sit as a voting member for the Allegan County region representing cities and villages. We reviewed proposed allocations for federal transportation dollars coming into the county.

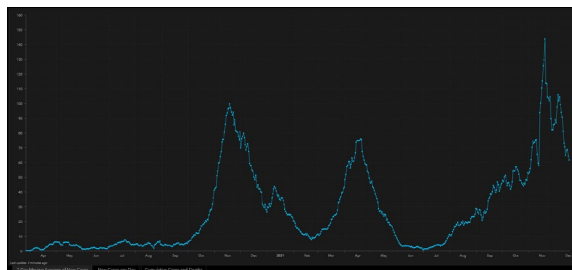
City Council Meeting – The regular meeting of the City Council was on Monday, and they covered the following items:

- A presentation from Safe Harbor and a request for consideration of ARPA funds from the City's distribution
- Deer management best practices
- Increase to boat launch fees for Union Street boat launch and Schultz Park boat launch
- Review of the City's concern / complaint log for the past six months

Douglas Harbor Authority – The DHA met to make a recommendation on continued aquatic weed treatment and also looked at the potential to conduct a test of other methods used to control aquatic weeds. The Authority also received an update from the City Manager about the progress of the capital budget items proposed at Point Pleasant Marina to include the demolition of the pool and/or house, improvements to the restrooms, installation of accessible sidewalks, and repair to the docks. In new business, the manager discussed the composition of the authority and membership requirements, talked about capital improvement planning in preparation for a City Council discussion, and the proposal from the Saugatuck Center for the Arts to install a temporary exhibit at Wades Bayou.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority – The KLHA meeting followed the DHA meeting where there was a discussion of navigational lighting on the Blue Star Bridge and costs for installation were provided. The next item for discussion was the presentation of information regarding the no-wake zone in the harbor following a complaint. The Authority expressed an interest in investigating the creation of the area between the Blue Star Bridge and the I-196 Highway Bridge as a no wake zone.

COVID-19 – Because this is a short work week, the Allegan County COVID Dashboard remains unchanged from last Friday. The data was last reported on December 17, 2021, with 61.6 cases. City Hall remains open to the public, but masks are required for entry. Most City employees are working remotely, but can be reached via phone, email, or by scheduling a meeting.



200 Blue Star Highway – Demolition work continues at 200 Blue Star with more than 75 percent of the structure demolished. I've visited the site twice this week to monitor progress. Overall, the work is progressing as anticipated.

SCA Artwork – The Saugatuck Center for the Arts met with the mayor and city manager to discuss a proposed temporary art installation at Wades Bayou in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the SCA. If approved, Douglas would be one of four communities to host an exhibit. The community build installation will be installed in May and be removed in September. The installation will involve three elements, an 18-foot ring and two structures floating in the water. The proposal as presented meets most of the elements of the community's public art policy. I've requested a special event application from the SCA for the temporary art exhibit and will take the application to City Council once received. SCA is also proposing a marketing plan that would benefit downtown Douglas.

Wades Bayou Request for Proposal – The notice seeking proposals for a recreation-based entity to locate at Wades Bayou to provide water-based recreation services will be published on the City's website and in the newspaper. Interested parties may request a packet and review the specifications. The responses are due back to the City in early January.

Open Council Seat – As of this writing, I am in receipt of three applications for the open City Council seat. In alphabetical order—Demetrea Terrien, Phil Toepper, and Jeremia Whiteley have submitted applications and were provided a questionnaire to prepare for the January 3rd City Council meeting.

Capital Planning – December is the traditional beginning of budget conversations starting with City staff. In the coming month, staff will review asset management plans and master plans to begin to identify capital items that will be presented to the City Council at the budget planning session.

Downtown Development Meeting – I participated in the DDA meeting and presented the idea of the SCA temporary art exhibit at Wades Bayou which is located within the DDA boundaries. A motion was made in support of the installation.

That is all I have for now.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager