



Good Afternoon,

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of January 31, 2022.

**COVID 19** – The Allegan County COVID Dashboard wasn't updated as of this writing; however, the state data shows a significant drop in the number of covid cases as of February 3, 2022. 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.

**Snow Event** – This week's snowfall kept the Department of Public Works busy clearing streets and trails to keep the City moving. As a reminder, the Fire District is asking for assistance with clearing fire hydrants. An accessible hydrant can save valuable time in responding to a fire emergency. A three-foot swath around the hydrant and a cleared path to the street is sufficient for fire department accessibility.

**MEDC West Michigan Tourism** – I participated in a Michigan Economic Development Commission interactive workshop to discuss shoreline town tourism and some of the challenges communities are facing. The moderators polled participants to generate discussion and participants were able to discuss their thoughts with the group on Zoom. Many ideas were generated including adding infrastructure such trails, parking, sidewalks, marinas, and additional waterfront access. In addition, there was an interesting discussion about the benefits and drawbacks of seasonal and transient boat slips. Seasonal boat slips produce a predictable revenue for municipalities and require less staffing, while transient boat slips are a wonderful amenity to offer but require a great deal of staffing and interaction with boaters. Other ideas centered around the ability to physically connect visitors to neighborhoods and businesses with sidewalks and trails, implementing wayfinding, employing mobile apps to direct visitors to businesses. There was also a discussion about the regional aspects of tourism and recognition that all communities should work together because visitors don't recognize political boundaries and city limits.

**Community Managers** – Friday the community managers met and we had introductions. This was my first time meeting Daniel DeFranco with Saugatuck Township. The managers discussed issues in common such as the Blue Star Trail status, Sewer Agreement, aquatic weeds, and the Harbor Authority.

**Utility Planning** – Utility issues continue to occupy a good deal of my work week. The water main construction on Campbell continues when the weather allows. I've been working through some utility issues at Felkers, Hidden Waters, and Parkside Lane.

That is all I have for now.

Rich LaBombard  
City Manager